Maaytah suspects may be requestioned

BEIRUT (AP) — The defence attorney for three Palestinians on trial for the assassination of a Jordanian diplomat has charged that police beat them to extract confessions, judicial sources said Tuesday. Attorney Bishara Abu Saad said in a statement to the examining Attorney Bishara Abu Saad said in a statement to the examiner. magistrate, Saeed Mirza, that he wants his clients questioned again, according to the sources. Yousef Mahmoud Shaaban, 31, Bassam Abdullah Atiyeh, 30, and Salim Kassem Mehio, 29, have admitted to the sources. membership in the Palestinian group held responsible for the Jan. 29 slaying of Jordanian Embassy First Secretary Nayeb.Imran Maaytah, according to the authorities. Atiyeh and Mehio have also admitted complicity, saying they helped Shaaban escape after he allegedly shot and killed Maaytah as he was driving to work from his Beirut apartment. Lebanese and Jordanian authorities have blamed the assassination on the Fateh-Revolutionary Council, a breakaway Palestinian faction headed by Abu Nidal. The three suspects are in the confidence of the confidence solitary confinement pending a decision by the magistrate whether to



Resistance, Israelis clash in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Israeli forces blasted infiltrating guerrillas with tank fire early Tuesday in Israeli-occupied southernmost Lebanon, killing two and wounding one, security sources said. It was the second major guerrilla infiltration into the area Israel occupies as a "security zone" to shield its northern border since Friday's Hebron massacre of Palestinians by an Israeli settler. The wounded guerrilla fled the scene of the Israeli tank attack. Soldiers in hot pursuit captured him in the morning, said the sources. No Israeli casualties were reported. The guerrillas were later identified as members of Hizbollah. The sources said the guerrillas sneaked about 10 kilometres into the "security zone" before they were detected at Jarmaq, eight kilometres northwest of Marjayoun, the main city in the Israelioccupied sector of South Lebanon. An armour unit, its mammoth Merkava tanks blasting its cannons and soldiers firing their automatic rifles, caught up with the guerrillas at Jarmaq, about 20 kilometres from the Israeli border.

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Papoulias in Tunis

TUNIS (R) - Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias arrived in Tunis on Tuesday for talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Mr. Papoulias, current chairman of the European Union Council of Ministers, is starting a Middle East tour for consultations on the Arab-Israeli negotiations which have been suspended because of last Friday's massacre of Palestinians in Hebion. Mr. Papoulias is due in Amman Wednesday evening. He is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein.

ILO team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) - An International Labour Organisation (ILO) fact-finding mission arrived in Amman Tuesday on a three-day visit to gather information on Israeli practices against Arab labourers. The mission will meet with Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi, representatives of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the federation of chambers of industry and the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs. The delegation members will be briefed by Mr. Ghazawi on the effects of Israeli policies and practices on Arab labourers in the Israeli-occupied

Highway shooting at Jews injures four

NEW YORK (AFP) — Shots were fired Tuesday at a minivan carrying orthodox Hasidic Jews on a New York highway, wound-★ figg four occupants of the vehicle. authorities said. Police said the shots came from a car driving alongside the van on the Franklin D. Roosevelt drive, near the Brooklyn Bridge in Lower Manhattan. Three of the injured were in critical condition. according to a spokesman at the St. Vincent Hospital. Those in the van had come from a hospital where they were visiting Rabbi Menachem Scheerson, a leader of the Hasidic Lubavich movement who had a recent cataract operation. The Hasidic community has had rocky telations in the past with black residents in the Brooklyn neighbourhood where the sect is based.

Test of Arrow missile malfunctions

TEL AVIV (R) - A test of Israel's U.S.-funded Arrow antimissile was cut short Tuesday when ground support equipment malfunctioned, an Israeli defense ministry statement said. It said a "surrogate" missile was launched but firing of the one intended to intercept it did not take place due to an apparent technical difficul-v. There have been calls in the United States for the cancellation of the Arrow project due to technical glitches that have pla-

11 hurt in Beirut soccer clashes

BEIRUT (AFP) - Eleven people were hurt Tuesday in clashes involving hundreds of fans after Lebanese soccer champions Ansar beat Beirut rivals Nejme. Police fired shots into the air to clear rival gangs of supporters. witnesses said. President Elias Hrawi recently called together the heads of rival Beirut clubs to take measures to end violence which is increasingly being conducted on religious lines.

Hekmatyar allows food convoy to Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghan Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has agreed to allow a United Nations convoy to deliver food supplies to besieged Kabul, offi-cials said here Tuesday. A sixtruck convoy will leave from Pakistan Wednesday with 90 tonnes of food for distribution in north and south Kabul, a Foreign Qffice spokesman said. Kabul residents have been hit by severe food shortages during winter as a "Suit of weeks of fierce fighting

Chas to join EU

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Finland Juesday reached agreement on membership of the European Union (EU). German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said. The greement followed that of weden earlier in the day (see age 6), leaving Austria and Norvay's terms still to be finalised. I nite Catholic Church in AMMAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1994, RAMADAN 20, 1414

Israel frees 500 detainees; PLO unimpressed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel released about 500 Palestinians on Tuesday in a bid to calm the fury ignited by the Hebron massacre, but Palestinians warned that much more will be needed before Middle East peace talks resume.

Military officials said there would be further releases Wednesday and a total of up to 500 by the end of the week.

"I think the Israelis are releasing us now to make the Palestinians happy. This is not a real step for peace." freed prisoner Wael Salameh, 38, said when he arrived in Hebron where Muslim worshippers were slain by a Jewish gunman Friday.

Samir Ghosheh, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, dismissed the release as "irrelevant to the real issue of providing protection

for our people.' He called it "cosmetic surgery" to dampen the violence that has swept the occupied territories since Friday's bloodbath and spilled over into Israel itself, deepening the Jewish state's unease.

Mr. Ghosheh emphasised that the PLO would not resume peace talks with Israel unless "certain guarantees are provided' to protect the Palestinians in the occupied

PLO spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo said the measures

announced by Israel so far to protect Palestinians following the massacre were "derisory and partial." The PLO "cannot take them seriously." he

Talks would remain suspended "until certain conditions are satisfied, including an effective international presence to protect the Palestinians and the disarmament of settlers.

The PLO leadership, meeting in Tunis with PLO negotiators recalled by Chairman Yasser Arafat, decided late Monday not to resume talks with Israel until it got satisfactory security guarantees.

Israel reportedly has offered a package of concessions, but has not officially announced

According to the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre, the Palestinians want Israel to: - Dismantle some settle-

ments, especially in Hebron

and the Gaza Strip; - Negotiate the future of Jewish settlements in the current round of talks, rather than after three years as originally agreed:

- Allow international protection in the occupied territor-

Disarm settlers; and - Increase the number of



Palestinians argue with an Israeli policeman during protests on Tuesday in Arab East Jerusalem (AFP photo)

zhak Rabin, other Israeli offi-

cials and media reports. - International observers to supervise the transfer of power from Israel to Palestinians, but

not to intervene militarily. - Possible dismantling of particularly troublesome settlements;

- A crackdown on radical Jewish settlers, including dis-Palestinian policemen. Israel has offered some conarming those who use weapons cessions," according to stateother than for self-defence and ments by Prime Minister Yitbarring some from Arab areas:

- Increasing the size of the Palestinian police force to be deployed in autonomous areas from the 8,500 agreed to in

Cairo. Mr. Arafat told the United States Tuesday an international force was needed to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories and the U.N. Security Council should adopt this

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke by telephone with Mr. Arafat about a resolution being debated by the council (see separate

The Palestinian news agency WAFA said Mr. Arafat stressed "the need for the Security Council to issue a resolution guaranteeing the safety and security of the Palestinians inthe occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, and charging an international force for that (responsibility).

for Washington on Wednesday to present the organisation's demands.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said the mission would comprise one or two envoys to be named later. He said the PLO was holding talks in Tunis on Tuesday with a special envoy from Russia and Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, current president of the European Un-

ion ministerial council. Israeli buses ferried the freed prisoners from several prisons to Hebron and other towns for emotional family reunions in the smoldering

The Palestinians' joy was marred by grief for the dead and a worsening squeeze in the West Bank, sealed off since

Saturday. The Ahli Arab Hospital in Hebron, with a population of 90,000, advertised in Arab newspapers Tuesday for medical supplies and food cut off by the curiew.

Hebron Mayor Majeed Al Zir told the Associated Press: "Nothing is being allowed into the city so how people to sur-

"People are starting to feel the shortage of food and medical supplies... we can't continue doing it if the curfew continues. Some 60,000 of the two mil-

lion Palestinians in the occu-

(Continued on page 5)

Troops kill settler by mistake

ISRAELI soldiers shot dead a Jewish settler by mistake Tuesday when they opened fire on his car near Bidiya village in the north of the occupied West Bank, a settler spokesman said.

Earlier spokesman Shai Bazak mistakenly reported that the settler was killed in an attack by Palestinians. The settler's wife was

seriously wounded. The car came under automatic weapons fire, and the couple, from the Ariel settlement, were taken to hospital in Tel Aviv, where the man

Military officials said soldiers at a roadblock opened fire by mistake at the car. which they deemed suspect.

Army generals earlier on Tuesday told Israelis to be on alert for Palestinjan attacks in revenge for the massacre in Hebron on Friday.

The occupied territories remained sealed off Monday. with two million Palestinians barred from entering Israel. Over 15 Palestinians were reportedly hurt in clashes with Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza.

U.S. continues to block U.N. resolution on mosque killings

up a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the killing of at least 60 Palestinians at a West Bank mosque, delegates attending the talks said.

The Security Council held a late Monday night debate --"to let the steam out," as an Israeli diplomat put it - but a draft resolution was no closer to a vote than when it was first hatched on Friday, only hours after the Hebron massacre.

The United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are continuing to disagree over the wording of the resolution, western and: Arab diplomats said.

Israeli Ambassador Gad Yaacobi said the debate would likely continue Tuesday and Wednesday. Six of the 15 Security Coun-

debate Monday.

cil members intervened in the In an unprecedented concession, the United States did not oppose the PLO's official participation in a Security Council

Western sources said the United States seemed more determined than Israel to keep the Palestinians from reaping benefits from the Hebron massacre beyond those laid out in the Sept. 13 declaration of principles they signed with Israel.

In particular, the sources said, Washington was trying to put the brakes on the Palestinian demand for international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories. The U.S. State Department,

however, announced Monday that it backed a U.N. resolution to send international observers to the West Bank and Gaza Strip as long as the Israelis and Palestinians were in agreement.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry noted that the Sept. 13 Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement called for a foreign presence, and that the parties should work out such a plan in the

would accept an international civilian presence in the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank.

Israel has long opposed international monitors.

The PLO's U.N. representative, Nasser Al Kidwa, in his opening statement Monday before the Security Council, welcomed Washington's "positive attitude" in not opposing his presence in the debate.

"At the same time we regret to say that we are not pleased to see the Security Council act belatedly in adopting necessary measures," he added, referring to the proposed international protection for his people.

Mr. Kidwa, who is PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's nephew, called the Hebron massacre "the most odious (crime) in our history since the occupation of the territories." by Israel in 1967.

He demanded "urgent and decisive measures" from the

(Continued on page 4)

Moscow UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.S. and Palestinian diplomats continued holding tion. diplomats continued holding tion. designed to win the PLO's restraint in a proposed resolution. His remarks came following Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's announcement that he restraint in a proposed resolution.

MOSCOW (Agencies) - Russian counter-espionage services have arrested a defence official with ties to the military industry and accused him of spying for British intelligence. the press service of the intelligence services said Tuesday.

The official, arrested on Jan. 15. has admitted to providing information on Russia's latest advances in weapons technology. including details on state financing of military research and plans for military cooperation with foreign countries.

The press service of the counter-intelligence service said the official carried equipment used for spying when he was apprehended and instructions that allowed him to secretly contact the British embassy in Moscow.

ITAR-TASS quoted the head of the press service. Alexander Mikhailov, as saying that the alleged spy had been working for British intelligence for over a year and a half.

Mr. Mikhailov stressed that the arrested official was caught in "full spy attire" and denied that there was any link to the Aldrich Ames affair in the The allegeded spy was to be.

tried in military court. The deputy head of the counter-intelligence agency. Sergei Stepashin, meanwhile told a briefing that about 20 people were arrested on

charges of espionage last year

and about a dozen more cases

were under investigation. ITAR-TASS said. Mr. Stepashin added that these cases involved foreigners from the Baltic states and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. including five Georgian

nationals. Authorities withheld the identity of the man arrested. News of the arrest came amid the continuing uproar over the arrests of former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) counterintelligence official Aldrich Ames and his wife. They have been accused of spying for

Russia and the Soviet Union. The United States last Friday ordered the expulsion of a Russian diplomat in connec-

(Continued on page 5)

Israel to disarm 100 settlers; army officers ridicule proposal

defining the scope of a pledged crackdown on radical Jewish settlers, said on Tuesday fewer than 100 would be disarmed in the aftermath of the Hebron

mosque massacre. Mr. Shahal said police were hunting for leaders of the anti-Arab Kach movement who had gone ot ground after the government announced on Sunday five would be detained without trial. One of the five has been

arrested. (see page 2)
Meanwhile, several senior army officers were quoted as saying detaining a few Kach activists is "hardly enough" if the government is serious about cracking down on violent extremists.

Kach member Baruch Goldstein, a doctor who immgirated to Israel from Brooklyn, New York, massacred at least 60 Palestinian worshippers on Friday before he was killed.

Mr. Shahal, reviewing at a news conference measures announced by the cabinet on Sunday, said security forces were drawing up a list of radic-

"Less than 100."

About 120,000 settlers live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the PLO has demanded all be disarmed as a condition for resuming talks with Israel on implementing Palestinian-self rule under a peace deal signed in Washing-

ton in September. Kach began in Israel with a hard core of U.S. immigrants but attracted a following among extreme right-wing Israelis.

Mr. Shahal said Kach did not represent the majority of Israelis who have settled in the occupied territories. There are less than 100.

and Kahane Chai has even less," Mr. Shahal said, referring to Kach and an offshoot founded by one of Kanane's sons. Binyamin, after the rabbi's death.

"I think we know fairly well

who belongs to those organisa-In parliament on Monday Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — al settlers whose guns would be Police Minister Moshe Shahal. taken away. Asked how many of whom are religious

"The murderer... grew out of the swamp whose spiritual sources are here and abroad. They are strangers to Judaism. They are not ours," he said.

"To him and those like him, we say today: "You are not part of the community of Israel... many in our nation despise you. You are not partners in the Zionist experience. You are a foreign implant. You are a poisonous weed. Sane Judaism vomits you out."

A majority of Israelis condemned the Hebron massacre in an opinion poll published Tuesday but more than 14 per cent refused to do so.

Nearly 52 per cent strongly condemned the carnage and 27 per cent condemned it. But 11 per cent said it had to be understood against the background of Arab terror against

And almost four per cent of the 500 people questioned praised the killing. The rest

(Continued on page 5)

Yemeni cabinet to discuss budget, arresting assailants

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen's cabinet is to meet this week to prepare the cashsqueezed country's budget for 1994 and discuss arresting peo-ple suspected of political killings, Aden Television said Tuesday.

Yemen has not officially approved a budget for two years running because of differences between the two major parties, President Ali Abdullah Saleh's General Peoples Congress (GPC) and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP).

The southern YSP demanded that the arrest and trial of suspects of political killings be included in a reconciliation accord signed by Mr. Beidh and Mr. Saleh in Jordan a week ago aimed at ending its feud with the northern GPC.

Within hours of the signing fighting erupted in Abyan province between northern and southern troops. The YSP says 154 of its

members have been killed since the 1990 merger of North and South Yemen. The cabinet session, to be and to last until Sunday, will be the first under Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas in more than two months.

Economists said in January that the budget deficit of Yemen, one of the poorest Arab countries, rose by more than a half in 1993 to 42 billion riyals (\$3.5 billion).

Disagreement on whether the 1994 budget should be drawn up in a way that gives local governments more power over their own affairs has delayed its approval, Mr. Attas, a YSP member, told President Saleh in an open letter in

January. Decentralisation, strongly advocated by the YSP, is one of the main clauses of the reconciliation pact signed in Jordan.

GPC and the third partner in the coalition government, the Islamist Islah Party of Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar, were said by political sources to be harbouring strong reservations over local governments which will loosen the central government's control. The television said the

basis of local governments." The cabinet's meeting in Aden, capital of the former South Yemen, and the expected drafting of the budget on a basis of decentralisation appeared to be concessions by Islah towards GPC and

easing the crisis which has

budget "will be drafted on the

erupted into open fighting in places between rival army units, political sources said. Jordanian and Omani mediators announced Monday that northerners and southerners had agreed to measures to halt fighting which cost at

least 20 lives last week in Troops loyal to President Saleh killed six tribesmen and wounded 20 others in a clash north of the capital, a spokesman for the Bakil tribe said

Tuesday. A Defence Ministry spokesman. meanwhile. accused southern troops of shelling inhabitants of the Mudia region in Abyan province in the

debate. The move appeared context of that pact. Four women held as suspects in Lebanon church explosion

BEIRUT (Agencies) -Lebanese security forces arrested four women on Tuesday suspected to be linked to the bombing of a Maronite church that killed 10 worshippers, security sources said. They said the women were

arrested at dawn and initial investigations showed they planted the bomb next to the altar during Sunday mass at Sayvidet Al Najat (our lady of salvation) north of Beirut. The sources said a fifth

woman, thought to be the leader of the ring, had fled the country shortly after Sunday's There were no further de-

The bomb killed 9 worshippers and wounded 60. Investigators Tuesday questioned dozens of survivors from the weekend bomb.

Military Prosecutor-General Nasri Lahoud interrogated many of the wounded at their hospital beds about the bomb-

ing. judicial sources said. Mr. Lahoud also questioned people who live near the Maro-

Jounieh. about 20 kilometres north of Beirut. They were released after the interrogation, said the sources, who requested anonymity. Media reports said up to six residents were questioned.

It was the deadliest act of terrorism since a car bomb exploded in Beirut's Muslim neighbourhood of Basta on Dec. 30, 1991, killing 30 people and wounding 120. Military experts have deter-

mined that the church bomb consisting of two 81-mm mortar shells wired to a detonator - was set off by a timer. Another bomb, which was defused, consisted of four

shells attached to a detonator

and was linked to the church organ. Government officials have charged Israel was behind the bombing to divert international attention from last Friday's massacre of Muslims at a West

Bank mosque, Tarabay Rahme, prosecutor of the Mount Lebanon region where the bombing occurred. said Sunday and unidentified detainee in a separate case had

previously told police interro gators about an alleged plot to blow up churches in Lebanon. Authorities interrogated the detainee further after Sunday's explosion but no details were released.

efforts to rid Lebanon of the terrorist image it acquired during the 1975-1990 civil war. The government has come under sharp criticism from the right-wing Christians and leftist Muslim leaders for post-

The attack was a setback for

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's

war security loopholes. But both communities teamed up in a nationwide shutdown Monday to show their solidarity against any attempts to rekindle the civil war, which claimed more than 150,000 lives,

hood said Tuesday Israel caused the blast at the church and called for revenge. The banned but officially tolerated organisation issued a statement denouncing the incident as "equally brutal as the

Egypt's Muslim Brother-

(Continued on page 3)

By Jean-Herve Deiller Agence France Presse

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM - To cries of Allah Akbar, masked Palestinian youths lob rocks at soldiers provoking a riposte of tear-gas and rubber bullets followed by more

The intifada has been reborn from the blood of the more than 60 Muslims slaughtered by a Jewish settler in a Hebron mosauc.

"God is great," echoes down the streets once more as it has done throughout the occupied territories since Friday's mas-

Trouble erupts for the fourth day running in the Arab quarters of East Jerusalem. The street-fighting tacties of the intifada launched in December 1987, are again being put to use against security forces.

The Shufat refugee camp witnesses some of Monday's beaviest clashes but in Isawiya, Al Suwaneh, Al Tur, Rasal-Amud, Silwan, Jabal Mukabir and beneath the ancient stone gates of the Old City, youths reenact "the revolution of

Such widespread violence has not been seen in Jerusalem since October 1990 when 18 Palestimans were shot dead. The intifada had since been left to the never-say-die hardliners

of the Gaza Strip.
The smaller children set the scene. Early in the morning they are out setting tyres ab'aze down Saladin Street, the main shopping thoroughfare of East Jerusalem. An army patrol sits barely 100

The kids have soon gathered enough bits of woods, iron and rubbish to make a symbolic barricade, which cars can nevertheless negotiate with

A few dozen of the bravest, the eldest only about 10, then start to provoke any soldiers that can be found.

After midday prayers, the tension mounts. The first teenagers arrive, their faces hidden by the chequered Palestinian scarves, followed by their leaders. Some have even donned plastics bags to hamper police who try to pick them out for capture later.

They also carry the biggest rocks and have a wicked aim. Slings are favourite weapon and the velocity compensates

for frequent inaccuracy.

Soldiers put on metal helmets and load up with ammunition at the back of their jeeps, grenade launchers, rubber, plastic and metal bullets for every occasion.

Meanwhile, life goes on around the confrontation. An old woman appears to hang out her washing on the edge of the



stones at Israeli soldiers during clashes on Tuesday in Arab Jerusalem (AFP photo)

road. A shepherd strolls past with his flock.

The military adopts dual taclf there are few stone-

throwers. a jeep roars into them firing tear-gas and the youths scarper down little

Or the advance can be progressive as in the Al Tur area, behind the Mount of Olives, on Monday. Trouble has started outside the local hospital and the Israelis are determined to clear the entrance.

Two jeeps, eight border policemen one officer against about 100 seasoned stone-Tear-gas and rubber bullets

fly towards the Palestinian vanguard as troops move slowly forward until a quick acceleration empties the street of all but the tear-gas plumes. As the troops pull back after a few minutes, the youths emerge to take back the street.

The set-piece is over in 20 minutes. It will be played out again somewhere else, perhaps closeby, time and time again throughout the day. Occasionally a U.N. vehicle shows up to try to calm things down or just monitor events.

Some witnesses challenge army findings on massacre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) - Challenging the army's account of the mosque massacre, worshiper Maliha Jaberi said Israeli soldiers burst into a chamber next to the mosque and opened fire on Palestinians fleeing the gunfire of a Jewish settler. 'Soldiers came in shooting."

said Mrs. Jaberi, 54, her head bandaged after being grazed by a bullet. She is one of several Palesti-

nians raising questions about what happened last Friday when Baruch Goldstein, a supporter of the anti-Arab Kach group, sprayed kneeling Muslims with bullets from his Galil automatic rifle.

The army said Goldstein alone was responsible for about 60 Palestinians killed and dozens more wounded at the Ibrahim Mosque,

But three days after the shooting in Hebron, many questions remain: How could one man cause so

many casualties? Why didn't the army tighten security after they learned of rising tensions between Jewish and Muslim worshipers? Why didn't Israeli guards monitoring closed-circint TV cameras act sooner? Why wasn't there a tape of the shooting? Did security forces ignore early warning signs that Jewish extremists were planring an attack on a mosque?

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin bristled Monday at Palestinian conspiracy claims, telling parliament that "any attempt to present Israeli soldiers as collaborators in the massacre . . is rediculous."

Mr. Rabin said all 111 shells in the prayer hall came from Goldstein's Galil.

According to army investigators, Israeli troops in the Tomb of Patriarchs and outside the entrance fired in the air during the confusion that followed the massacre. But none of their bullets bit Palestinians, they

The army probe says Goldstein, 38, wore his army reserve uniform Friday when he arrived about 5:30 a.m. at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a 2.000-year-old monument marking the burial sites of Abraham, Sarah and other Biblical figures.

Jewish settlers must remove the ammunition from their guns before entering the tomb area. But Goldstein, carrying the Galil and four 35-bullet clips, was not stopped by the one officer and four soldiers on

Goldstein did his reserve duty in the brigade that provides security for the tomb area, and it was possible the guards thought he was on duty. said an army official. Goldstein initially entered

the Jewish prayer area where about 15 worshipers, all armed, were praying, the army said. From there, he tried to reach the mosque area but the connecting door was bolted by

Goldstein then tried two other entrances, before slipping into the Muslim prayer hall through a fourth. From there, he opened fire on about 400 worshipers, said Major General Danny Yatom, the army commander of the occupied West Bank.

Goldstein emptied three ammunition clips and half of a fourth before worshipers lunged at him and began to beat him.

The army has reenacted the shooting and found that a soldier could fire 111 bullets in 30 seconds. "It was very easy to harm a lot of people," Gen. Yatom said,

The guard commander tried to get into the prayer hall, but was pushed back by frantic survivors trying to get out, the

He tried two other entrances but was stopped by Palestinians who blocked the doors, fearing he was another gunman, said Gen. Yatom. Goldstein bludgeoned to death in a

Meanwhile, the two soldiers

at the guard post just inside the Tomb of the Patriarchs fired seven to nine harmless shots in

However, Mrs. Jaberi said she was in the anteroom connecting the outer entrance and the prayer area when three soldiers ran towards her firing, wounding her and a woman next to her.

the air, the army said.

The prayer leader, Sheikh Adel Idris, said worshipers inside the prayer hall tried to attack Goldstein each time he paused to reload. When they finally got him, they beat him to death with iron bars and a fire extinguisher.

Sheikh Idris said he only saw Goldstein shooting in the hall. But worshiper Badran Idris, a relative of the prayer leader. said that as he ran towards Goldstein to jump him, he noticed that a door was ajar behind the gunman and someone was firing through the slit.

The prayer hall has seven closed-circuit TV cameras that are monitored by Israeli guards, but army officials said no tapes were found.

Meanwhile, other questions were raised about whether Israeli security forces ignored early warnings of a possible

A Shin Bet security agent planted among Kach disciples reported to his superiors in 1990 that Kach followers in the militant Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba planned to kill Arabs in a mosque, including the Ibrahimi Mosque, according to the Yedioth Ahronoth

Goldstein, a Kiryat Arba resident, said during Purim celebrations in 1990 that "the day will come when one Jew will go wild and take revenge against the Arabs," the agent told his superiors.

Goldstein has also visited at least three times convicted Israeli mass killer Ami Popper. who is serving life terms for shooting seven Palestinian labourers in 1990.

Iraq did not use chemicals on Shiites, U.N. inquiry reports

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — A U.N. investigation has turned up no evidence that Baghdad used chemical weapons against Shiites in southern Iraq, according to a statement released Monday.

The U.N. special commission for disarming Iraq received results from test samples taken after Shiite rebels and refugees charged last October that Iraq had used chemical weapons in the southern marshlands.

"The analyses found no trace of chemical war fare agents in the samples," the commission said.

Plant and animal matter and soil and water samples from ine region were sent to three different laboratories in U.S., British and French laboratories to obtain greater certainty in the findings, according to the statement.

Charges that chemical agents were used came last September from Iraqi refugees and their supporters.

On Friday, a team of commission missile experts returned from Baghdad reporting progress in the establishment of long-term monitoring to prevent Iraq from developing long-range missiles.

The U.N. panel, which is supervising Iraqi compliance with the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms, will recommend a lifting of the international oil and trade embargo on Iraq only after a monitoring scheme is in place and working effectively.

The embargo was imposed after Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait.

The monitoring system, involving cameras and other sensors, also will help the United Nations make sure Iraq is not developing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Hearing on 'syndrome'

Chemical toxins are possible

causes of illnesses afflicting thousands of Gulf war veterans, experts told a U.S. scientific panel Monday. Sick veterans urged the panel to move quickly, before it is too late to save their lives.

Veterans returning from the 1991 war share many of the symptoms of civilians diagnosed with multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), said Mary Lamielle, president of the New Jersey-based National Centre for Environmental Health Strategies.

She said that in two years of examining veterans and their families. "I was struck by the remarkable similarity of the patterns of illness that these individuals reported to me to those reporting hypersensitivity to chemicals in the civilian population." She described MCS as chro-

nic. disabling and sometimes worsening symptoms triggered by an acute chemical exposure. Ms. Lamielle was testifying

in the first public hearing of the committee to review the health consequences of service during the Gulf war, an 18-member panel formed in January by the veterans administration and the Pentagon to assess the mysterious ailments that have come to be known as Gulf

Veterans blame exposure to chemical and biological agents for their sicknesses, which include respiratory and cardiovascular problems, fatigue, memory loss and disorientation. Medical studies. however, have fialed to pinpoint a common cause.

The panel, headed by Dr. John Bailar III, a statistician at the McGill University in Montreal, was formed amid growing criticism from Congress and veterans groups that the Pentagon was repeating the mistakes it made in failing for years to recognise the consequences of agent orange contamination among Vietnam

Intifada reborn in blood of mosque massacre Kach leaders hiding

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Fellow militants of Hebron mosque killer Baruch Goldstein have gone underground as the Israeli authorities crack down on the anti-Arab Kach move-

By the time the government announced that the Jewish fanatics would be disarmed, restricted and even detained vithout trial, the hardliners had disappeared.

The five top wanted men were alerted on their radio transmitters that security forces had launched a manhunt for them Sunday as Goldstein was buried in the extremist stronghold of Kyriat Arba, wit-

nesses said.

They piled into an old Ford Escort and fled, despite a curfew and the deployment of dozens of troops and police in the area of the settlement, adjacent to Hebron, which is supposed to be a closed military zone.

The armed Kach militants were last seen heading into the narrow alleys of the old Jewish quarter of Hebron, home to 500 die-hard settlers.

"Goldstein is a saint, a great man who had the courage to carry out a heroic act," said Baruch Marzel, the Kach leader, at Goldstein's funeral. Mr. Marzel lives in one of a

dozen caravans in the heart of Hebron which the settlers call Tel Rumeida. Avigdor Haskin, a Kach militant, expressed his approv-al of the massacre by calling his

new-born son "Baruch" and promising to bring him up like his namesake. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said: "This is a group of individuals who are dangers to the state. Those who followed the killer's funeral cortege call-

ing him a saint are putting the future of our country in danger."
West Bank military commander General Danny Yatom has issued orders to put the five in "administrative detention" — in effect renewable periods of up to six months

without trial. Nonetheless, before fleeing, the Kach men had time to threaten settlers who called for reconciliation and suggested Goldstein's blood crime was

less than meritworthy. Two of them even called Israel Radio on Sunday and again on Monday, from 'somewhere in Israel'' to taunt the authorities.

"The danger represented by this organisation and its small satellites lie in its ability to carry out very violent acts. said sociologist Ehud Sprinzak, an expert on right-wing Israeli

"Kach members are more dangerous than the Muslim fundamentalists because they have raised violence against Arabs to a hallowed status in the name of God."

Kach, meaning "like that," was founded in 1971 by Rabbi Meir Kahane who was assassinated in New York in November 1990.

Mr. Sprinzak said: "The extremists' aim is to have recourse to violence to avenge the evils perpetrated on the Jewish people over the centur-ies. The Kach only counts a few hundred activists, all armed and most living in Kyriat Arba and old Hebron.

The Kach has created a "surveillance" network in the area which has struck terror into the Palestinian population through regular night patrols.

Israeli TV recently showed

gun-wielding Kach men, some masked, stopping Palestinians walking peacefully through Hebron, insulting them, checking their identity papers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesians demand punishment for Israel

JAKARTA (R) — Several hundred Indonesian students, chanting "Go to hell the United States and Israel," have demanded Washington punish Israel for last week's massacre of 43 Arabs, the official Antara news agency reported on Tuesday. The students, in a peaceful protest held on Monday outside the U.S. consulate in Medan, North Sumatra, 1,400 kilometres northwest of Jakarta, accused the United States of allowing Israelis to kill Palestinians. "The United States claims itself to be the world champion of human rights, but it cannot take action against Israeli human rights violations," said Afdol, leader of the demonstration, which was sponsored by the Association of Islamic Students. The protesters chanted Allahu Akbar and shouted "go to hell the U.S. and Israel" and "Hebron massacre hurts Muslims throughout the world." Two student leaders were later invited into the consulate for 15 minutes of talks, Antara said. Indonesia condemned as "despicable" the massacre on Friday in the West Bank and said it would affect the Middle East peace process, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, said in its capacity as chairman of the non-Aligned Movement it would consider ways of supporting the Palestinians. Monday's demonstration follows a wave of protests that began last year when mainly Muslim students demanded a state-run lottery be abolished on grounds it was immoral and against Islamic law. The government scrapped the lottery in November. Up to 2,000 students held a noisy demonstration last week outside the U.S. embassy in central Jakarta, protesting against the return home of two staffers alleged to have been involved in drug trafficking.

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Thai police conclude Saudi iewel case

BANGKOK (AFP) - Thai police handed a "top secret" report to Interior Minister Chaowalit Yongchaiyudh Tuesday after concluding an enquiry into a multimillion-dollar jewel theft and alleged police complicity in the aftermath. An interior ministry official said the report was given directly to Mr. Chaowalit by Police General Pochana Boonyachinda. representing national police chief Pratin Santiprapop. The official said the report, submitted amid rumours of imminent arrests in the case, was labeled "top secret." He said there was no information on its contents. The case stemmed from a Thai servant's theft in 1989 of some \$20 million in gems from the palace of a Saudi prince where he was working. The servant fled home to Thailand where he was arrested. But part of the jewelry recovered by Thai police was not returned to the owner, and much of what was handed back turned out to be fake. Eight men, all but one a policeman, are already on trial in the case. The aftermath of the theft has poisoned relations between Thailand and Saudi Arabia, which in 1990 downgraded its embassy and stopped issuing visas to Thais. At the time, some 150,000 Thais were working in Saudi Arabia, sending home millions of dollars annually. The Nation dailyquoted a high-ranking Thai Foreign Ministry source as saying Riyadh had advised that Thai-Saudi diplomatic ties would be restored to ambassadorial level in seven months "if Thai authorities could settle the case in March as they have

Turks march in support of secular state

ISTANBUL (AFP) - About 20,000 people demonstrated here Monday in support of keeping Turkey a secular state and against calls by fundamentalists for an Islamic regime. The demonstration was called by two political parties in the ruling coalition in response to criticism levelled in parliament by . Islamic deputies at modern Turkey's founding father Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Twelve deputies, including seven from the Islamic Prosperity Party (PP), called for a parliament debate on the 1924 execution of people opposed to the secular republic created from the ashes of the Ottoman empire after World War I. PP Deputy Hasan Mezarci referred to Ataturk as an illegitimate child and "a product of fornication" triggering a public backlash against the fundamentalists. Mr. Mezarci has now quit the PP and is expected to give up his parliamentary seat. Addressing the crowd in Taksim Square in the European part of the city, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller called on Turks to say "no" to those who "exploit religion" for political ends.
"No-one can use his right to free speech to insult the mother of Ataturk," she told the demonstrators who chanted "Turkey will not be another Iran" and "Turkey is a secular state and will stay that way." The leader of the main opposition party. the Motherland Party, Mesut Yilmaz, laid a wreath Sunday at the Ataturk mausoleum. However, most opposition parties with the exception of the ultra-nationalist Nationalist Action Party have accused the government of using the issue for electoral purposes only four weeks before municipal polls.

Gaza picture wins annual award

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Patrick Baz, a photographer in Jerusalem with Agence France-Presse, won a first place prize in the national press photographers picture of the year contest for a photograph of a girl fleeing gunfire. The picture, taken in Gaza, was chosen from among 830 entries in the newspaper spot news category. Five other AFP photographs received awards of excellence in the annual contest, the world's largest for photo-journalism with some 1.500 photographers entering more than 22,000 photographs. Robert Giroux, of AFP's Washington bureau, received the award of excellence in the newspaper general news category for a picture titled "Clinton with football." The same award went to Mr. Baz in the newspaper feature category for "Hats off for Hassidim." to Eric Feferberg of AFP's Paris headquarters for "Jews walk by Palestinian flag:" and Larry Roberts of AFP's Washington bureau for "Israeli soldier with fiance on bus." Jean-Loup Gautreau, of AFP's Paris headquarters, received an award of excellence in the newspaper sports action category.

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Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

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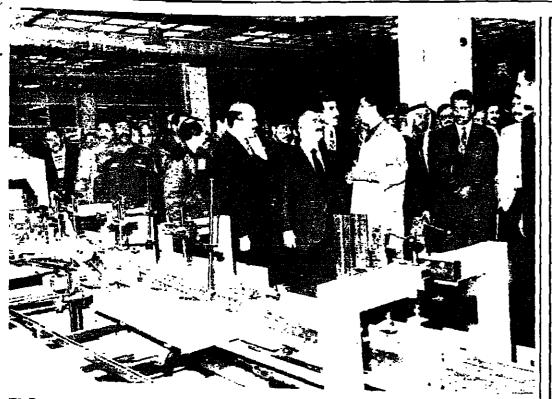
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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday tours the cardboard box manufacturing

plant of the new Jordan Industrial Resources Company at Sahab Industrial City (Petra photo)

Crown Prince inaugurates JD 5m establishment at Sahab Industrial City

AMMAN (Petra) -- His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday inaugurated the Jordan Industrial Resources (JIRC) Company which comprises a cardboard box manufacturing plant and an industrial fatty acids and

glycerine factory.

JIRC General Manager Omar Shaaban, who accompanied Prince Hassan on a tour of the new establishment, said that the JD 5 million company is owned by 10,000 shareholders and employs 150 plant employees and technicians. Mr. Shaaban said the cardboard manufacturing plant also

specialises in printing posters and school textbooks, and the industrial fatty acids and glycerines plant is the first such factory in the Arab region.

He explained that farty acids and glycerines are essential components in the manufacturing of soaps, paints and some medicines, and the factory would be producing 1,200 tonnes annually.

Mr. Shaaban said that the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) supervised the installation of certain sections of the factory, which was set up by Jordanian technicians and engineers. JIRC Board Chairman Ramzi Muasher, who welcomed Prince Hassan at the inaugural ceremony, said in a brief address that the company is utilising environmentally-safe

The Sahab Industrial City now houses 320 industries of which 100 export commodities to Arab and European nations. The total number of employees at these factories is estimated at 11,000.

Attending Tuesday's inaugural ceremony were Senator Raja'i Muasher, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad and other prominent individuals.

tories on March 15. Banking officials here ex-

pected Jordanian banks to reopen their branches in the occupied territories around the same date.

mediately available from the

Among the banks that are expected to reopen as soon as the final CBJ approval is granted are: the Arab Bank, Jordan's largest commercial bank, which will function in Nablus and Gaza, the Bank of Jordan (Jenin), the Jordan National Bank (Nablus), the Jordan-Gulf Bank (Nablus), and the Arab Land Bank

All these banks except the Jordan-Gulf Bank had branches in the occupied territories before 1967. The licence for Jordan-Gulf Bank was issued in consideration that Al Mashrek Bank, which has since merged with Jordan Bank, had branches in the West Bank.

The Cairo-Amman Bank, CBJ.

The way for reopening Jordanian commercial banks was cleared when Jordan and Israel signed an agreement in December under which the banks would operate under Jordanian banking laws in the occupied territories and would only have a token obligation of sending periodic reports to the Bank of Israel.

The Dec. 1 accord allowed for the reopening of the pre-1967 branches of Jordanian commercial banks in the West Bank, which was under Jordanian rule and where Jordanian banking regulations applied until Israel occupied the territory 27 years ago.

dan and Israel negotiated an "annex" to the agreement to include Jordanian bank branches in the Gaza Strip, which was under Egyptian control and where Egyptian banking regulations applied until 1967.

Jordan delayed going ahead with the reopening of the banks until the Kingdom and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an agreement on economic cooperation on Jan. 7. That agreement broadly outlines the shape of economic lies between the occupied territories Officials have said the CBJ

role in the banking and monetary affairs was warranted since the Jordanian dinar will be in circulation in the occupied territories, and it was up to the Palestinians to decide what should be their "legal tender."

In economic cooperation talks with the PLO, Israel has been resisting the Palestinians' quest to set up their own central bank and monetary authorities and issue a separate currency.

Even if the PLO managed to wrench Israeli permission. bankers say, it is not feasible for the organisation to issue a new currency if only because it lacks the means to provide adequate coverage in foreign exchange or gold.

nian street in the occupied

tor, was quoted as saving that drug addiction was spreading among students returning from abroad, but there were no means of determining the exact number of actual addicts though their numbers

were growing noticeably. He attributed the increase to economic, demographic, educational and social changes in the Kingdom.

Dr. Malhas said that it is important to first introduce legislation to determine the rules for countering drug addiction and the type of addiction that would require rehabilitation services at the planned centre.

He said the ministry hopes to start constructir and fitting the centre v .h equipment before the nd of the year. The projec s expected to cost JD 2 m. on.

CBJ to announce bank reopenings in occupied lands

Abdul Rahim Malhas

their treatment, Dr. Malhas

In his address to Parlia-

ment deputies at an iftar ban-

Ministry to set up drug abuse treatment centre

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Ministry of

Health plans to set up a

specialised centre to treat pa-

tients suffering from drug addiction in Shafa Badran

district near Amman, accord-

ing to Health Minister Abdul

Because Jordan lacks the

proper facilities and qualified

cadres to deal with the prob-

lem of drug abuse, a special-

ised British organisation has

been contracted to conduct a

feasibility study for the project at a cost of JD 120,000,

According to Dr. Malhas,

the ministry is also seeking

assistance from British estab-

lishments in designing a pro-

totype and training Jorda-

nians and is requesting finan-

Rahim Malhas.

said the minister.

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is expected soon to announce a date for the reopening of Jordanian commercial banks in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, officials said Tuesday.

The officials said the Israeli central bank had approved CBJ preliminary licences issued to five banks to reopen eight branches in the occupied territories.

"Some bureaucratic procedures remain to be completed, but an announcement by the CBJ could be announced soon," said one official.

The first wholly Palestinian bank, the Commercial Bank of Palestine, with a \$14 million capital is expected to start operations in the occupied terri-

No official comment was im-

cial aid from the German

government to execute the

The minister said that the

Fuheis Hospital, which spe-

cialises in the treatment of

the mentally disabled, has a

section which provides advice

and treatment to drug

But the help provided is

limited and most patients

who are either referred to the

hospital or seek treatment

voluntarily seldom return for

follow-up, explained the

register at the Fuheis Hospit-

al on a single day, but none

return the second day for

regular treatment, he added.

number of drug addicts, the

ministry recognised the need

to build proper facilities for

With the increase in the

Seven to 10 addicts may

project.

abusers.

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(Bethlehem and Gaza).

another Jordanian bank, which reopened in the West Bank in 1986, will also be brought under the direct control of the

Following that accord. Jor-

and Jordan, including the monitoring of the banking and monetry affairs by a joint Jordanian-Palestinian com-

quet last Saturday, His Majesty King Hussein said

there are at least 7,000 drug

addicts in Jordan, adding that

drug abuse is currently more

prevalent among the youth

than it had been in the past. The Anti-Narcotics Unit at

the Public Security Depart-

ment (PSD) had said in the

past few years that Jordan

has no serious drug problem

and that most of the illicit

substances seized here were

smuggled into the country

from drug-producing nations

and were destined for con-

sumers in neighbouring

But a report in the local

press Tuesday said that 430

names were added to the

PSD's list of drug addicts in

Brigadier Hisham Ensour.

the Anti-Narcotic Unit direc-

the Kingdom during 1993.

A local newsletter this week appeared to cast a doubt on the assumption that the dinar will be the currency of the Palesti-

It said Palestirians in the occupied territor is were increasingly using the Israeli shekel in their caily dealings while opting for the dinar only for purposes of of icial transac-

tions, including real estate sale

and purchase. PLO officials have said that the shekel would have to be one of the currencies in circulation in the occupied territories during the interim five-year autonomy period envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO

They point out that more than 50,000 Palestinians are employed in Israel and collect their wages in Israeli shekels.

agreement.

"Apart from all other considerations, it is illogical to even think of setting up thousands of exchanges at the crossing points into the occupied territories to change the shekels into dinars or any other currency," said a PLO eco-

"So, for the time being we have to allow the continued circulation of the shekel."

Jordan remains one of the safest countries for tourists — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) - Tourism Minister Mohammad Adwan said the two incidents in which foreign tourists were slightly injured in stabbing attacks in downtown Amman earlier this week were "very. regrettable; very non-Jorda-v: nian," adding that the Kingdom remained one oblithe safest countries for tourists in the region and even throughout the world.

more than half a million tourists annually, has few incidents of violent assaults to

speak of, said Dr. Adwan. It is a stable and secure country, and the Jordanian society has a strong sense of enmunity and social conscituce which has always guaranteed its people and visitors an extra measure of security, the minister said.

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Citizens, expatriates and tourists concur that the Jordanians are a hospitable, generous and accommodating people. Dr. Adwan said.

"This is not a country with the enormous social problems of a large urban metropolis," said the minister. The Public Security Department's (PSD) weekly reports on crime indicate that small-time burglaries top the list of



Mohammad Adwan

crimes at an average of about

8 per week. 'In a country with a population of 3.9 million. said Dr. Adwan, "the rate of crime in Jordan is nearly neg-

ligible." The minister, in an interview with the Jordan Times,

said both incidents against tourists were committed by lone assailants, acting on impulse, who were subdued by passersby and apprehended by the police.

Dr., Adwan, who Monday visited Mr. Long (the British tourist who was hurt Friday) at the King Hussein Medical Centre, said he was gratified that both affected tourists had fully recovered. The minister also issued a free invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Long and members of their family "whenever they wanted to come back to Jordan."

The minister said the Hebron massacre is bound to affect the whole region, but Jordan has lived through serious times and has throughout maintained moderation, calm and poise.

"We pride ourselves in our recognised hospitality. Luckily the latest incidents have not impeded the increasing flow of tourists in rhe country," said Dr. Adw_1, stressing that "the government will deal with any harassment of tourists and visitors with the harshest measures possible and we will not tolerate in any way any misbehaviour towards our guests."

Royal decrees endorse health care rules and military pension law amendment

AMMAN (Petra) — Four Royal Decrees were issued Tuesday endorsing different revised and newly-introduced regulations and laws.

The first endorsed a revised regulation on fees collected by the Health Ministry for licensing private hospitals. Under the revised regulation, licensing fees for any private hospital with no more than 15 beds will be JD 1,000. Hospitals with mroe than 15 beds, but less than 30 will be required to pay a licensing fee of JD 2,000 and hospitals with 30 to 50 beds will pay a JD 3.000 fee. The regulations stipulates that hospitals with more than 50 beds must pay JD 20 for every bed

in excess of the first 50. The second Royal Decree endorsed a new regulation on food safety. Under the regulation, a new Food Management Council will be established at the Ministry of Health. Among other things, the council will draw up the general policy on health control of food items and draft plans to ensure food safety and quality.

The third decree endorsed a new regulation on the examination of drugs. Under the regulation no drug consignments will be cleared from customs until results of laboratory tests establish that they are in conformity with approved specifications of

The regulation makes it incumbent on drug importers to submit samples of imported or locally-produced drugs to the laboratory, which will issue a receipt stating the date of the

samples were received by thelaboratory and other necessary details.

One sample of each batch should be examined at the laboratory, according to the regulation. It also provided for examining and reexamining drugs on sale at pharmacies at no charge, upon instructions from the Health Ministry.

The fourth decree amended one article of the law on retired servicemen. The amendment entitles certain retired army officers, other than those with the rank of field marshal and general, to a pension commensurate with the rank they were entitled to at retirement. This means that officers who retired prior to their entitled rank promotions will benefit from the amended article.

Panel raises JD 500,000 for **Hebron massacre victims**

AMMAN (Petra) — The a statement condemning the higher national committee. Hebron massacre as a barcharged with raising con-baric crime perpetrated and victims of the massacre at Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron last Friday has collected more than JD 500,000, according to Ahmad Helayel, the com-

mittee spokesperson. Following a committee meeting chaired by Chief Islamic Justice Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi, Dr. Helayel also announced that a special committee has been set up in the occupied Arab territories to investigate the circumstances surrounding

the massacre carried out by an American Jewish settler. At the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday, the Palestine and Occupied Arab Territories Committee issued

tributions for the families of executed in collusion with the istacli authorities.

In New York, acting head of the Jordanian Mission to the United Nations Fuad Bataineh urged the Security Council to take appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupa-

Addressing a special session of the Security Council called to discuss the massacre. Mr. Bataineh said protection for the Palestinians and their property and the holy places was vital to ensuring the continuation of the peace process and the attainment of a lasting and honourable peace in the region.

Municipalities law amendments explained

AMMAN (Petra) - Proposed amendments to the Municipalities Law which are currently before Parliament call for dividing the Kingdom's municipalities into four categories and holding simultaneous municipal elections in all towns, explained Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ahmad Akaileh.

The amendments propose that the first category include the municipalities located in the governorates, the second category be comprised of those in the districts of no less than 15,000 inhabitants; the third includes the municipalities in the sub-districts with no less than 5,000 inhabitants; and the municipalities in other areas

will be included in the fourth.

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives cables marking Armed forces arabisation Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Tuesday marked the anniversary of the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces. Upon orders from His Majesty King Hussein on March 1, 1956, General John B. Glubb, then Chief of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, was replaced, and Jordanian officers took up the command of the Kingdom's military. Marking the occasion Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taher Masn, the director general of the Civil Defence Department (CDD) and General Intelligence Department (GID) and the commantelligence Department (GID) and the commandations of the Civil Department (GID) and the commandation of the Civil Department (GID) and the Civil Department (GID) and the commandation of the Civil Department (GID) and Department der of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) in Jordan, Brig. Mohammad Abdul Rahim Qudsieh, sent congratulatory cables to King Hussein, praising the King's courageous step at a time when the entire Arab World was suffering from foreign influence. The cable messages included wishes for the King's continued good health and happiness.

King condoles Hrawi

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Jordan's Ambassador to Lebanon Fakhri Abu Taleb Tuesday attended the funeral of the sister of Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in Zahlah and offered the King's condolences to the Lebanese president.

Crown Prince hosts iftar for officers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday hosted an iftar in honour of senior officers of the Armed Forces, the Public Security, Civil Defence and the General

Intelligence departments. After conveying to them the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Prince Hassan briefed them on current issues and the situation prevailing in the region. Prince Hassan and his guests performed the Maghreb prayers together. Later in the evening Prince Hassan visited the command of the Third Royal Armoured Division where he met with its commander and senior officers and was briefed on its duties and training activities.

Cabinet reviews report on RJ

AMMAN (Petra) - The Cabinet Tuesday met to review a report on Royal Jordanian's (the national carrier) situation. The Cabinet will discuss the report today (Wednesday). A British consultancy firm is currently conducting a feasibility study to come up with the best mechanism for privatising the airline. The study is expected to be finalised this month.

Health ministry creates d: ug supply office

AMMAN (Petra) - Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Tuesday created a new office for supplying essential drugs and charged his advisor with heading the office. The new office will import some basic drugs, which have so far been monopolised, for sale to citizens at reasonable prices. The minister also decided to set up a new drug-pricing committee to include a financial advisor, a drug marketing expert and a representative of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) who will be providing technical advice on drug prices, Meanwhile health authorities Tuesday destroyed 800 cartons of tomato juice weighing

WHAT'S GOING ON

Cultural Centre.

(7:00 p.m.-midnight).

Amman (Tel. 643251/2).

Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the

★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer

Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.

"Permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contem-

porary artists at Darat Al Funun of the

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal

artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

* Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian

DRAMAS

☆ Drama in Arabic entitled "The Happy

☆ Drama in Arabic entitled "Al Taratir" at the

SEMINAR

Seminar entitled "Woman and Small Pro-

jects" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00

Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

Man" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00

Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition by artist Shaker Al Girmi entitled "Studies in the Jordanian Environment" at the Phoenix Art Gallery for Art and Culture.
- * Plastic exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural Centre. Cultural Centre.
- Centre for Vocational Training at the Royal Cultural Centre. ★ Exhibition of paintings by Riham Ghassib at The Gallery Inter.Continental Hotel.

* Exhibition of works of art by the Arab

- * Art exhibition by artist Jalal Arigat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays).
- Art exhibition by several artists at the Alia Art Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal

Lebanon holds 4 women in church blast

which it said was Israel also responsible for. The Israeli intruder enemy is continuing his filthy crimes in attempting to divide our nation by killing worshippers

(Continued from page 1)

Hebron mosque massacre."

inside the mosque and attacking Christians in their church." the statement added. The statement urged all Arabs. Muslims and Christ ians, to unite "to liberate the land and avenge the spilled

Just hours after the victims were buried several Lebanese Christian political leaders turned on the government, demanding that it fulfil its responsibilities by identifying and punishing the bombers.

Many agreed the government was wrong to focus its attention on ambitious projects to rebuild Lebanon's war-shattered infrastruture when it should first strengthen security and address social issues.

The head of the Maronite Church, Monsignor Nasrallah Sfeir, set the tone at a funeral service Monday at the church. "All the Lebanese have the right to a life of freedom with-

quality," Mr. Sfeir said. "Saying that such things happen in other countries is not enough for us. Elsewhere the culprits are found and punished, but here they are not identified because of negli-

gence or incompetence."

out fear, frustration and ine-

By Dr. James Zogby

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Parallel in dangerous acts

AS RIS (ajesty King Hussein said in the aftermath of the bombing of the crowded Maronite Catholic church i Jounieh last Sunday, while worshippers were in t e midst of their prayers, it is the same evil mind the touched off the church bomb as the one that pulled the trigger on worshippers at the Ibrahir i Mosque. The worshippers in both cases. "were killed by a criminal mind whose evil intentions were not different from the one who perpetrated the Hebron massacre."

Even though the scale of the two acts were not identical, their nature was in essence similar. This is true even though the nationality or religion of the killer or killers might be different.

The Arab World has suffered from and complained justifiably about the double standards of the Western world in its treatment of the conflicts in the Middle East region. The Arab people can be expected, therefore, to react with the same fury and anger at the Maronite church slaughter as they did in the wake of the mass killing of Palestinians at the Ibrahimi Mosque. The Arab side can also be expected to condemn any similar acts of violence against innocent civilians whoever they are and whatever their faith may be.

In the case of Sunday's massacre in Jounieh, the actual perpetrator of the crime has yet to be identified although fingers are already being pointed at Israel or Israeli agents, if only they stand to benefit the most from the act by deflecting attention to Lebanon following the heinous crime in Hebron. Israel has a history of blowing fuses in Arab countries either to sow distrust and fighting among the people or to turn the spotlight away from its self-created troubles.

This time, however, it could also be an act of criminal folly committed by an insane or deranged man or by a person or persons acting on behalf of a local faction or foreign power. There is the possibility that the planners of Sunday's attack could have been targetting the reconciliation process in Lebanon just as Baruch Goldstein had the peace process between the Arabs and Israel in mind when he committed his heinous act.

There is a parallel between the two events as both attacks spilled blood to wreak havoc with what has been painstakingly, achieved on both fronts.

The necessary conclusion that has to be drawn from all acts of violence conducted by forces of extremism in the region is that fanatics must not be rewarded and that greater efforts must be exerted to thwart their objectives and aims. The reconciliation process in Lebanon must remain on track just as the peace process must not be detailed, after the basic requirements of protecting the Palestinian people are met in the second case.

Otherwise, the evil minds that carried out Friday's and Sunday's criminal acts could succeed where others failed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

XFILR THE crames committed by Israel in Hebron and Lebation, there can be no excuse for the Arab countries to delay further their reconciliation and not to half their dispute and divisions, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. The Ataly are duty-bound to unite their ranks visia-vis their common enemy who continues to kill Arab citizens, destroy Arab homes and pillage Arab property and wealth, said Nap Alzeish. The blood shed in the mosque of Hebron Friday and that shed in the church in Lebanon Sunday was. Arab blood Zionism does not differentiate between one Arab and another in the drive to achieve its ends. Said the writer. Israel is the sole beneficiary of the follow of Arab citizens and together with, and supported by, the United States governmert. Israel is commuting atrocities to trigger internal Arab strite, to make it look impossible for Arab states and various Arch techtical factions to co-exist and so seek peace with Israel and keep the Arabs weak and in disarray, he said. He said that the perpetrators of the two attacks in Hebron and in LeSanon are the same, and the aim is quite clear, to shake the Arab people's selb-confidence and weaken the Arab Sanon-

COMMENTING ON His Majesty King Hussein's statement to denoties at the Royal Court concerning drug addiction in Jore in a columnist in Al Dustour said that addiction is a problem that assumes a national dimension and therefore requires solutions at the national level. According to the King, 780) drag addicts now exist in the country, and the incountry of addicts are young people, but nothing is being done by the Health Ministry to deal with this question in the most appropriate way, said Ahmad Shaker. The writer said that the Health Ministry has recently closed a unit at the mental health hospital in Fuhers that used to treat addicts and left the task to no one and no proper authority, since the country lacks a quained team of specialists to handle the problem. It has become clear to the authorities that addiction is spreading among university students in Jordan and that most of the drug addicts are those who studied abroad said the writer Regardless of the fact that the police in fordan are doing what they are to control the situation, said the writer, the local community of addition to the health authorities are nonetheless responsible is see to it that proper and drastic measures are taken to deal. In the situation

WASHINGTON WATCH

Correcting misconceptions first step to sound Arab-U.S. relation

DISCUSSIONS WITH both Arab and American journalists and political analysts make it disturbingly clear that on several levels, our two societies do not understand each other.

We do not know each other's histories or social and political structures. And often times we each display a failure to understand or appreciate central aspects of each other's cultures. Evidence of these misunderstandings abounds.

For example. Arabs correctly note the bias and negative stereotyping of both Arab culture and Islam in the U.S. media. But it is equally correct to note the many defamatory articles about the U.S. in some Arab publications.

The writers of the articles in question frequently present caricatures of the "other" society based on surface impressions and incomplete information, often coloured by an ideological bias. And this is as true of some Arab journalists writing about America as it is of some American journalists writing on Arabs

Similarly, political analysts, both Arab and American, all too frequently make incorrect assessments of political decisions made by the "other" side. Because there is a lack of appreciation for the political dynamics at work in each other's societies, analysts often simplify or mystify these processes. the complexities of which they do not understand.

Some Arab writers, for example, can understand nothing more about U.S. foreign policy than using the mystified cliche of it being under "conspiratorial Zionist control." This overly simplistic view of U.S. foreign policy decision-making is matched by those American writers who reduce all Arab states' policies as driven by a blind "anti-Israel animus", as if there were no real history or real issue concerns to which those

What is needed, at this point, is a deeper exchange and dialogue between our two worlds and a commitment to be

In the beginning the two central issues that require greater understanding and appreciation are for Arabs to comprehend the history of U.S. democracy and the ways that the resulting political dynamics shape U.S. policy; and for Americans to understand the role that Arab culture and, at times, Islamic solidarity plays in shaping the political attitudes of the Arab

Most of the world only knows American democracy as a slogan or sees it as an abstraction. It is not merely voting or running for elective office - it is a process and a culture. And American democracy is best known not as the abstract perfect picture that is presented in brochures, but in its history - the history of the struggle of many American groups to expand the democracy and make it real.

The system is not perfect and is open to abuse; but history has shown that the system is changeable and abuses can be corrected when groups organise, take advantage of their power and act to bring about changes that are in their interest. That is how African-Americans, women and other minorities (including Arab-Americans) have worked to expand their influence in the U.S. system,

Political decision-making in the U.S. is subject to the pressures of the democracy. The success pro-Israel AmericanJews cannot be attributed to some "conspiracy" or "control" but, as I explained in an earlier set of articles, is due to the fact that they committed their resources and energies to make the democratic process work for their interests. And there is some continuity in U.S. policy because, despite some advances by Arab-Americans, the pro-Israel community remains a powerful and pre-eminent political force in fundraising for candidates, voting as an organised bloc and projecting a unified message that continues to dominate the U.S. political debate on Middle East issues.

The lesson for Arabs and Arab-Americans is clear. To change U.S. policy one must first understand the nature of the system and its decision-making process. And then one must be . committed to engaging in that process, play by its rules, and organise to change it.

To mystify the process and then denounce its products as immoral is only a cry of helplessness — it will not make

"The lesson for Arabs and Arab-Americans is clear. To change U.S. policy one must first understand the nature of the system and its decisionmaking process. And then one must be committed to engaging in that process, play by its rules, and organise to change

To the extent to which U.S. policy affects the Arab World. and there is agreement that the impact is considerable. Arabs need to devote themselves to understanding the inner workings of the U.S. system in all its aspects: the information system, the legislative process, the electoral system and even how various government agencies work and interact with each other and what they offer to those who learn how to take advantage of them Learning from other successful efforts to use the democratic

process to change policy can yield important lessons as to how Arabs might proceed, even at this date, to make U.S. policy more responsive to their concerns. While some Arabs have not understood the workings of

U.S. democracy, Americans have not understood the role of "Arabness" and Islam in the shaping of Arab culture and decision-making.

It was shocking to see the U.S. one year ago, launch an initiative on Bosnia and then consult with European allies as if the Arab or Islamic communities were not affected by the crisis that was killing tens of thousands of innocent Muslims in that country. Similarly, it remains puzzling to Arabs that U.S. analysts fail to see the pivotal role that the issue of Palestine plays in shaping the attitudes of Arabs and Muslims world-wide.

That, despite then differences in systems or ideologies. there are central threads that bind together the many Arab states and Arab popular culture remains a mystery to many Americans. And that is because there is little understanding in the West of the common history and experience which Islam and Arabness represents to the 200,000,000 Arab people.

The failure to appreciate the legacy of the last century of pain and its impact on the Arab consciousness accounts for many misperceptions of the fears and aspirations of the Arab World today. The fact is that during this period. Arabs lost control of their history. They were invaded, subjugated, colonised and cut into pieces. While analysts in the West began to think of the pieces as distinct and separate entities, events in each Arab piece continued to have reverberations in the rest of the region. While each portion of the Arab World ultimately reached some semblance of independence, Palestine remained the broken link, the open sore and constant reminder of Arab powerlessness.

That this remains a deeply felt hurt among many in the Arab World, that much of Arab policy is still predicated on a response to this fact, is not understood in the West. And because of this, policy analysts and policy-makers continue to make mistaken judgements about how Arabs will or will not respond to events or decisions.

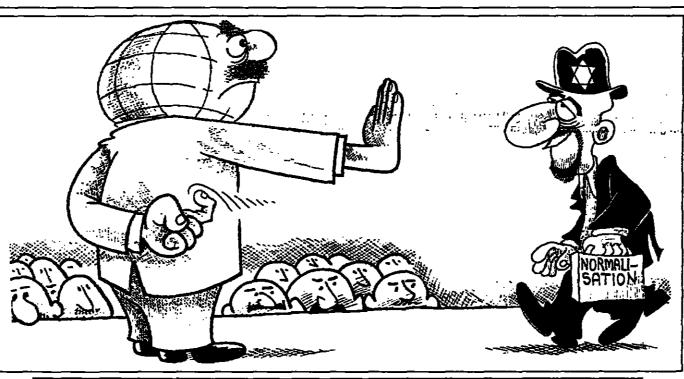
By way of example that might shed light on both people's misperceptions of their respective realities, one can point to the question of the Arab boycott - an issue frequently raised by U.S. policy-makers in their dealings with the Arab World. The boycott, of course, came into being as an Arab response to the injustice done to the Palestinians nearly half a century ago. It remains a symbol of Arab reaction to that injustice just as the injustice itself remains, and this is something that some Americans still fail to appreciate. (Although Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown in his recent statements on the boycott displayed real political wisdom by translating the issue of the boycott into an American business concern and not an acceptance of the Israeli position, which is a real step forward in the U.S.-Arab dialogue on this question.)

While some Americans continue to misunderstand the difficulty Arabs have in doing direct trade with Israel until justice is restored to the Palestinians, Arabs fail to understand why U.S. administrations and Congress continue to raise the issue, if only in a pro forma way. The answer is simply the political pressures inherent in the U.S. process which have raised this issue to a high level of visibility and have made it a litmus test to which U.S. politicians must at least pay heed, or else risk paying with their political lives.

There is so much more that could be written on this topic, but is sufficient to write that what is required, as we move forward in this new post-cold war period, is better understanding and appreciation of the major characteristics of each other's societies, systems and culture - not for any abstract reason, but because sound policy will ultimately come only from sound understanding of each other.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute.

LETTERS



The battle ahead

With hardliners free, Russia could face new wave of political violence

By Deborah Seward

The Associated Press MOSCOW - With leading hardliners at large. Boris Yeltsin could face a new wave of violence organised by his opponents as they seek to rally their supporters and make a political comeback. Most of the former prison-

ers lay low Sunday on their first full day of freedom after their release under a par-liamentary amnesty. Only, Viktor Anpiloy, one of the most vocal hardliners, was on the street urging followers to unite in fighting Mr. Yeltsin. It may take former_vice president Alexander Rutskoi, ex-parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and other freed hardliners some time to find their way around a political landscape that has changed dramatically since they were jailed five months ago for their role in the Oct.

Once key political players, they are now far from centre stage, with leading roles in the opposition being played by ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky and Communist Party chief Gennady Zyuga-

nov. Mr. Khasbulatov, who looked broken when he walked out of Lefortovo prison, said he did not plan to return to politics. That would eliminate one of Mr. Yeltsin's most bitter political riv-

But Mr. Yeltsin could face a renewed hardline challenge in the streets. Former KGB chief Vadim Bakatin predicted that "many former Lefortovo prisoners will rush to gather a crowd for anti-presidential

Mr. Annilov, leader of the Russia Labour Organisation. said his first task would be "raising workers' collectives to fight against the regime." A veteran organiser of violent street demonstrations.

ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky and the released hardliners.

Mr. Zhirinovsky, whose Liberal Democratic Party won nearly a quarter of the vote in the December parliamentary elections. holds the upper hand in any dealings with Mr. Rutskoi and

company.

With strong popular support among civilians and the military. Mr. Zhirinovsky has a power base in parliament and what appears to be solid financial backing.

"I suspect the people who were allowed to walk out of Lefortovo will do their best to destabilise the situation...They are capable of going to the extreme" said Lev Ponomaryov of the Democratic Russia Movement.

Mr. Anpilov led a May Day protest that left one policeman dead and nearly 300 people wounded.

Newly freed hardliners Gen. Albert Makashov, Ilya' Konstantinov, leader of the banned National Salvation Front and Alexander Barkashov, the head of the Neo-Fascist Russian National Unity Party, also support the use

A canny politician, he emerged unscathed from the October trouble and may decide he has little to gain from casting his lot with the former prisoners.

In the past, Mr. Rutskoi made no secret of his intention to seek the Russian presidency in 1996, a post Mr. Zhirinovsky also had said he would run for.

Mr. Yeltsin may hope his Another alarming possibilopponents are weakened by rivalry - as his own backers were in the December elec-

He is bolstered by a foreign policy victory, when Russia successfully urged the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw their guns from Sarajevo. He has also deprived hardliners of their main issue by slowing the pace of economic change. But his handling of the

tions.

about his leadership. Five months ago, the freed group was considered so dangerous Mr. Yeltsin called

amnesty raised new questions

in the army to blast them out of the parliament building for defying his order to disband. He then threw them in jail. Although Mr. Yeltsin initially "enounced the new parliament's amnesty, he ignored it in his state of the

nation address shursday and took no decisive steps to prevent the release. Sergei Shakhrai, leader of the pro-Yeltsin Russian Unity and Accord Party, felt the amnesty could lead to conciliation among Russia's political forces. Others felt it

could mean chaos. "I suspect the people who were allowed to walk out of Lefortovo will do their best to destabilise the situation." said Lev Ponomaryov of the Democratic Russia Movement. They are capable of

going to the extreme."

The futility of violence

LAST MONTH, our country has abruptly encountered a series of aggressive and most hateful acts that aimed at threatening its stability. These acts started with the assassination of Jordanian diplomat in Beirut Nayb Maaytah and included the blasts in Rivoli theatre in Amman and Salwa

movie theatre in Zarqa. What surprises me greatly is the ironic sense of protection that the perpetrators of these crimes assume. Those who assassinated Mr. Maaytah could have been driven by their opposition to the peace process and Jordan's involvement in it. And those who planted bombs in theatres screening pornographic movies have harmed themselves fiercely and have, more importantly, created a victim out of an enemy.

I cannot understand the way sach people think. Who told them that they can bring about change through violence? Who told them that the peace process will collapse when they kill a diplomat? Moreover, how come they want to force this country with its wise leadership to abandon its commitments to work for the welfare of Jordanians, Arabs. and Muslims

Almost all of us agree that unethical movies must not be screened in a country that respects its religions and abides by its values. However, we should express our views through channels other than violence. It's really deplorable that such people didn't learn that an aggressive and adhoc treatment of any wrongdoing will certainly backfire. Had the assailants. therefore, meant to change things to the better, they wouldn't have sailed in the wrong direction. There are always other civilised channels to achieve the best treatment of any issue. especially in democratic countries.

In Jordan, even in the Cabinet and in the House, we have

arguments and counter-arguments. We have people supporting the peace process and others standing firmly against it none of the two parties, however, had committed any wrongdoing against the other. Democracy gives the right to each ordinary citizen to reveal his/her thoughts and beliefs. Since the case is so, why to adopt roundabout ways that can do nothing but aggravate the situation? In sum, people's safely is something that could by no means

be bargained. Everyone of us should handle his/her responsi-bility in this respect. We must cooperate to keep our country away from violence.

Mohammad Saleh Al Masri, Yarmouk University. Irbid.

U.S. blocking resolution

(Continued from page I) international community and

"a new policy" on Israeli settlers in the occupied terri-

Earlier, U.S. diplomats criticised U.N. Secretary-General-Boutros Ghali's offer to send U.N. observers to the territories following last week's massacre. U.S. spokesman James Rubin said the letter sent Saturday by Dr. Ghali to Mr. Rabin offering the U.N. team was not "particularly helpful or

useful." Mr. McCurry stressed that it was up to the two parties concerned to decide on how the plan was carried out and that foreign monitors should not be

forced on them unilaterally. The Israeli mission to the United Nations said it would accept a draft resolution condemning the massacre in Hebron, but not Israel, and providing for an international presence. But it would not brook any

reference to Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories, said Avner Tavori, a spokesman for the Israeli mission.

Israel's Yaacobi said Israel would agree to a resolution that contained the following

It should condemn the Hebron massacre — but not Israel; . call for an acceleration in . Israeli-Palestinian peace talks; , and refer to the provision in : the peace accord for a temporary international presence that would be agreed on by Israel and the PLO.

Mr. Tavori emphasised. however, that such an international presence would be negotiated and agreed on by. the two parties. "We are not . talking about imposition by the Security Council." he said.

grd Zubair Ah HONG India

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from three per cent in 1985 to 1.6 per cent. But it is in rural

areas that the rate is still high (AFP photo)

Question for Khasis

What do men want?

By Syed Zubair Ahmad

SHILLONG, India — The matrilineal Khasi society in northeastern India, one of the few surviving female bas-tions in the world, is making a fervent effort to keep men in their place.

Through an all-male organisation that is battling the centuries-old matrilineal system has yet to make any significant dent, the rebels claim to have enlisted the support of some prominent Khasi women.

Their struggle to break free, they say, has resulted in small victories; some have begun to have a say in family affairs and are even inheriting property. But they constitute an insignificant minority in the 800,000-member Khasi society.

The men say the Khasi women are overbearing and dominating.

"We are sick of playing the roles of breeding bulls and baby sitters," complains A. Swer, who heads the organisation of maverick males.

Another member laments: "We have no lines of succession. We have no land, no business. Our generation ends with us.

The demand for restructuring Khasi society in the patriarchal mold is a fallout from the growing number of women who are marrying outsiders.

Following custom, the youngest daughter inherits the property and after marriage her husband moves into the family house. Outsiders are said to marry Khasi women for their property,

while the women say they prefer to marry outsiders because their own tribesmen tend to be irresponsible in family matters.

In rebuttal, many Khasi men say the outsiders take advantage of the immaturity, youth and vulnerability of the youngest daughters and devour all their property and business. As a result, many Khasi men become paupers.

Another problem caused by these marriages is the disintegration of families. About 27,000 Khasi women were divorced by their non-Khasi husbands in recent years, the highest number among India's northeastern tribes. The Khasi Student Union has issued a stern warning to young Khasi women against marrying "nontribals," saying they may be ostracised if they do. It is against switching over to the patrilineal system,

So is a prominent Khasi scholar, H. W. Sten, who cautions that a patrilneal shift "would result in crossmarriages between clans, which is taboo in Khasi society," and adds, "Ultimately, it would lead to genetic defects in the offspring."

He points out that a Khasi son of daughter takes the surname of the mother. Therefore, if two sisters marry two men of different clans, in a patriarchal system the surnames of their children would be different and marriages between cousins would be valid. "This goes against the basic principle of Khasi

custom," he said. At the same time, Mr. Sten

By Jonathan Wright Reuter
CAIRO — The man in charge

of Egypt's family planning programme since 1985 waited years before he had the confidence to tell the world he might be winning.
Now, with the birth rate

slipping year after year. Population and Family Affairs Minister Maher Mahran is prepared to start speaking of

the programme's gains.
"When we started achieving success, I couldn't declare it," he said. "Going into the 10th year, with a continuous drop in. the birth rate, I don't think this is a random phenomenon at all." He added in an interview with Reuters: "I don't like to say very successful. I can only

beyond what I expected." In 1985 the population of Egypt, a country hemmed in by the desert and wholly dependent on a narrow strip of irrigated land along the Nile, was growing at three per cent a

say it has been successful

Every year it had more than a million extra mouths to feed but new housing was simultaneously eroding the amount of precious land available for farming. The government re-peatedly said the equation was dragging Egypt towards a dis-

The population now stands at about 58 million but the effects of social change, rapid urbanisation and an increase in literacy, coupled with family planning publicity, have taken even Mr. Mahran by surprise.

"When I took over responsibility in 1985 (as head of the National Population Council). I never thought the growth rate in the first half of 1993 would drop to 1.9 per cent," he said.
"In Cairo it's 1.6 per cent

but it's diluted by higher rates in Upper Egypt," he added. Mr. Mahran said the change in attitudes towards having children was particularly strik-

ing across the generations.

"Look at me. I was one of four but my grandfather had 14 children, and I myself have only two. If you ask the students at university how many children they want, you will rarely hear them say more than

two," he said.
Television has played a very good role. Now people live in the world. They see what other people are doing, they see Europe. These kids have ambitions, they want to be better and they want to learn.'

Mr. Mahran, a British-trained obstetrician and gynaecologist, said the decline in birth rates went hand in 28 to 52 per cent for women,

Egypt triumphs over population challenge

hand with improvements in all the other measures of public

Eight years ago, one in 10 children died before reaching the age of five. In 1992, the rate was 45 in 1,000.

Life expectancy has in-creased to 63 for men and 66 for women. From an average of 45 in 1960.

"I remember when I was a child. If you found somebody of 60, you said goodbye. He was an old man," Mr. Mahran

Literacy rates, seen as an important element in the success of any family planning programme, have also risen dramatically.

In less than a decade the proportion of people who can read and write has gone from 52 to 64 per cent for men and

Mr. Mahran's long-term aim is to stabilise the population. with an average of two children

Egypt, which in the early 80, had a million new mouths to

feed every year, has now cut the population growth rate

cent of the people will be not yet married. So the population will continue to grow for another 30 to 40 years. The population would then be 100 to a family, by raising the

tion and Family Affairs Minister Maher

"Television has played a very good role. Now people live in the world. They see what other people are doing... These kids have ambitions, they want to be better and they want to learn," Popula-

contraceptive use from 50 per cent to 70 per cent. This might be achieved in

Mahran.

"But if you don't work hard for that, you will have more. And if you work very hard. You

but for that you would have to kill illiteracy, unemployment and poverty — and this is not an easy job," he said.

His ministry estimates the government is spending about 300 million pounds a year on family planning, on top of 20 million from foreign donors.

With that it makes contraceptives available in every village clinic, either as IUDs at less than 1 or pills at about 20 U.S. cents for a month's

Supply.

But with the one problem gradually diminishing, Mr. Mahran's newly created ministry expects another one to

arise.
"We are not accustomed to people living so long. I think that in five or six years we have to make care for the ageing one of the components in ourplanning," he said.

Detainee release fails to impress

(Continued from page 1) pied territories have been cut

off from jobs in Israel by the Former Palestinian spokesman Hanan Ashrawi dismissed

the release of prisoners as window-dressing when more than 10,000 Palestimans are in pleted a 21-month sentence. Israeli jails. "We are not looking for

appearance we are looking for serious substance," she said. None of those released killed or wounded Israelis, none belonged to groups opposed to peace such as Hamas and none

Moscow unveils 'spy'

(Continued from page 1)

tion with the case. In retaliation, Russia on Monday ordered an American diplomat to leave the country within a week. They were the first such expulsions since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

U.S. court papers said Mr. Ames and his wife were paid more than \$2.5 million for the secrets they passed on to Russia and the Soviet Union starting in 1985.

Mr. Ames, 52, and his wife. Rosario, 41, arrested Feb. 21 after a two-year investigation. faced a federal court hearing Tuesday in which their lawyers were expected to ask for their release on bond.

Initial reports had put the Ames' payoff at \$1.5 million. But in court papers filed Monday, federal prosecutors said new evidence suggested that they received "well over \$2.5 million.

stashed in foreign bank accounts throughout the world, many beyond the reach of the government in this case," the court papers said. Authorities have seized the Ames' \$540,000 house and frozen assets in 13 bank

"This money has been

had committed crimes since the Sept. 13 autonomy deal.

"These releases are just a drop in the ocean without any political significance," said 27year-old Nasser Azza who was bussed back home to Ramailah on the occupied West Bank just 11 days before he com-"I'm not as happy as sad-

dened and angered by the massacre in Hebron. Releasing 1,000 prisoners is not enough. said Ehsan Owda, 25, who returned home to Bethlehem six months before the end of five years inside.

The carnage at the Tomb of the Patriarchs on Friday sparked widespread protests which have left another 17 Palestinians dead and hundreds wounded and Palestinian leaders ordered no celebration

for the releases. It has led the PLO to snub U.S. President Bill Clinton's call for snap talks to turn

tragedy into a peace catalyst. Sufian Abu Zeidah, a senior Gaza Strip official with Mr. Arafat's Fateh movement. said: "It's too small a number. There are at least 4,000 prisoners in jail on ridiculous

"Israel could free them immediately to calm the Palestinian population.

According to international human rights groups Israel de-tains about 500 Palestinians a week during normal times.

Compensation offered

Israel will pay compensation to families of Palestinians killed in the Hebron massacre, the government announced.

It is rare for Israel to compensate Palestinians for death, injury or material damage unless they launch and win court

Israel's announcement came a day after Saudi Arabia said it will pay 200,000 riyals (\$53,000) to each Palestinian family that lost a loved one in the massacre, and King Hussein said he was contributing

\$150,000 for the victims fami-

condemns those who are

opposed to Khasi women's

marrying outside the tribe.

ble," he said. "No problem if

a nontribal wants to marry a

Khasi girl as long as he is

prepared to live with her and

follow the Khasi custom. It

will only add to the variety in

Khasi society."
But Mr. Swer says such

liberalism is the root cause of

bastardisation of his tribe.

"Today, we have over 2,000 clans, but very few of

them are pure Khasis," he

observed. His demand for

change, he adds, would stop

outsiders from chasing Khasi

young women, since under

the patrilineal system their

wives could not inherit prop-

erty. But what about men

marrying outside their tribe?

into the Khasi fold," he re-

plied. "The children from the

wedlock will automatically be

like to end female domina-

tion, they do not support Mr.

Swer's movement to abandon

the deeply held tradition.
"We Khasis underestimate

the contributions of our

fathers to the family," said H. T. Wells, a cousin of Mr.

Sten "Our fathers do a lot,

but the credit goes to the

mothers. I would love to have

the patriarchal system but for

the respect of our custom."

Mr. Swer admits that the

men's demand for a patri-

lineal society is still a distant

hope. But people like Mr.

Wells, half converts to his

The writer is a reporter for The Times of India.

idea, sustain his dream.

While some men would

"The girls will be taken

"Khasi culture is very flexi-

In a separate gesture of conciliation, Israel's chief rabbi paid a condolence call, under heavy police guard, to a Muslim leader in Jerusalem.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir said the one-time compensation-payment was a "humanitarian gesture." Israeli officials did not say how much total compensation for the families of the dead and wounded would be.

Government officials said Palestinians could apply to the Israeli civil administration in the West Bank for a 5,000shekel advance payment pend-

ing full compensation.
It was a rare meeting for chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Sheikh Hassan Tahboub, head of the High Islamic Council, at the headquarters of the Waqf

in Jerusalem. "The sheikh expressed thanks over the fact of the visit and said he too wants peace" Rabbi Lau told reporters after-

The Muslim leader demanded the removal of a synago-gue in the Tomb of the Patriarchs, the 2,000-year-old Hebron shrine sacred to Jews and Muslims where Friday

massacre took place. Sheikh Tahboub said he told Rabbi Lau the Higher Islamic Council had warned the Israeli government about problems at the Hebron tomb. He said the name of Dr. Baruch Goldstein, who carried out the attack, had been mentioned specifically

because he had harassed mosque guards and worshippers. "I made it clear to him that the massacre could have been prevented had the government heeded our warning," Sheikh

told Israel radio. The meeting ended without a planned joint statement.

Tahboub, a native of Hebron,

Officials said the Muslims wanted to wait until a sevenday mourning period ends before issuing a joint statement, and Rabbi Lau agreed.

Algerian hijackers denied

asylum

ALICANTE, Spain (R) Three Algerian policemen who hijacked an airliner to Spain will be denied political asylum there, local officials say.

Handcuffed and flanked by police officers, the three hiiackers were led out of Alicante airport in southeast Spain after surrendering to authorities on Monday following some five hours of negotia-

The Air Algerie Boeing 727 they commandeered on an internal flight with around 120 passengers and seven crew on board meanwhile took off for

Alicante Governor Alfonso Chave told a news conference the three men, aged between 28 and 32, would face normal legal procedures for their ac-

Because of international agreements there was no question of them being given poli-tical asylum in Spain, he said. The hijackers, each armed with a pistol, ordered the plane to make an unauthorised landing in Alicante, on the Mediterranean coast of south-

The civil governor, who did much of the negotiations with the hijackers, told the news conference: "These were three officials who said they belonged to the Algerian police. They said they wanted to leave their country and that was why

eastern Spain," Mr. Chave

they did this." Witnesses said the three men, two dressed in suits, were laughing as they got into the police van after surrendering.

The passengers, all Algerians, were released unhurt and Mr. Chave said the hijackers had throughout the negotiations, conducted with the plane's captain as intermediary, made clear they intended

no violence. "They said they were concerned not to commit any violence against the passengers but rather to ensure their safety," he said.



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For further information please call Mr. Jabra Ghandour at tel: 699307, fax: 666149.



In UNION there is STRENGTH. In UNION there is PROGRESS.

(Continued from page 1)

accounts.

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voiced no opinion. The survey by the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East found 57 per cent supporting Mr. Rabin's peace policy. But 36 per cent were opposed. More than seven per

cent gave no opinion. Only 14 per cent thought the government should agree to dismantle the settlements to get peace negotiations back on track. Nearly 78 per cent were opposed and the rest without

They noted that some army commanders have previously received death threats from Jewish extremsits, the Jerusalem Post reported. Meanwhile, the police said it would not detain or disarm individuals in the territories until the army decides whom it thinks needs to be arrested.

It is "ridiculous" to take the automatic weapons away from some 20 potential instigators. one army source said. "There are plenty of weapons scattered around the territories. If an individual needs an automatic weapon, he can get one; they are readily available. Cracking down on these people requires extensive intelligence, in addition to what is now known about groups and individuals. It is a political decision, not ours to make or

In a related development. the army medical corps. in which Goldstein had served since 1984, said that throughout his service there was never a reason to doubt his sanity or

But Channel 1's Mabat news reported last night that as early as 1984, soldiers complained Arab.

Druze soldiers serving with

Israel to disarm less than 100 settlers

lower his profile for psychological reasons.

that while serving in Lebanon. Goldstein refused to treat an

Goldstein's artillery unit complained to their officers that they feared he would refuse to treat them. Goldstein was later transferred from the unit.

European Union and Sweden break enlargement deadlock

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Union (EU) and Sweden broke a deadlock in FU enlargement talks here Inesday by agreeing on membership terms for the Swedes and opening the way to similar sicels for Finland and Austria.

After 25 hours of non-stop talks. Swedish European Affairs Minister Ulf Dinkelspiel said the union would give Sweden 435 million ECU (\$478) million) over four years to cushion its initial EU membership dues.

Announcing the deal, Mr. Dinkelspiel said: "I trust, and I'm confident, that the other candidate countries (Austria) Finland and Norway) will very, very soon form us on course to

immediately afterwards, the FU resumed membership negotiations with Finland and officials said similar talks might be held later in the day with The EU had missed its high-

N-publicised political deadline of wrapping up entry terms for the four applicants by midnight Menday night. Mr. Dinkelspiel admitted

that there had been a crisis in the negotiations in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Diplomats had warned the

tacks were on the brink of celiapse because the applicants. had refused to temper their demands for special treatment and exemptions from some of the Est's regulations.

A French diplomat said the applicarits had been encouraged in their bardline demands by Germany's support of Austria and iDenmark's support of Norway, which angered countries such as Spain.

Nevertheless, Norway waiked out of the talks early Tuesday despite German mediation. It refused the demand of Spain, Portugal and Ireland for better access to

sidential land prices bit stag-

Smc-British tow over the col-

Sino Land paid 2.26 billion

Hong Kong dollars (\$291.61)

million) for a 7,059 square

metre inner-city sife near Hong

Kong Airport in Kowloon, 42

Then it spent another 2.14

per cent above the opening

billion dollars for an 18,490

square metre seaview lot in the

new territories, more than

Souble the opening bid of one.

Hang Lung Development

one's future

billion dollars

fish-rich Norwegian waters. The Norwegians kept repeating their battle-cry that "not a single extra fish" for EU fishing fleets would be paid for Norway's entry tickets.

Finnish diplomats said the EU had gone some way to meeting Finland's insistance on greater aid for its farmers and under-developed regions.

The EU agreed to allow subsidy aid for 92 per cent of Finnish farmlands, and give the Finns the special right to support regions throughout the country and not only in the

There were also indications that the EU was giving way to Austria's demands that strict limits on polluting truck traffic across the Austrian Alps be retained until 2004, even though they contravened the union's rules.

And EU negotiators offered the applicant countries a new fund of 750 million ECU (\$827 million) — mainly to help them integrte their high-cost Alpine and Arctic agriculture into the EU's farm policies.

The sum comes on top of another fund of 500 million ECU (\$550 million) to help the applicants cut their agricultural prices to EU levels.

The EU dipped into the funds to find the money for Sweden which will allow Stockholm to sharply reduce the first four instalments of its high net annual dues to the EU budget.

The applicants, being relatively wealthy, will pay more into the EU budget than they will get out in benefits, but the amount has been considerably reduced by their hard bargain-

EU officials said that all outstanding issues could be handled at a meeting of EU foreign ministers on March 8, and that the deadline could possibly be stretched to March 10.

square metre property in sub-

"The correct word I'm grop-

ing for is "astonishing"," gov-

ernment land agent Nigel Bur-

ley said after putting away his

Chung Sen Surveyors Ltd.,

put it more graphic terms:

The government raised a total

of 5.05 billion dollars in appro-

simately 50 minutes — a rate

of 1.683 million dollars

Such higher-than-expected

prices flew boldly in the face of

worries over higher interest

rates and a renewed Sino-

(\$217.000) per second."

Arab trade fund lags far behind capacity

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Activity by an Arab fund set up three years ago to support flagging inter-Arab trade still lags far behind capacity due to low demand from its members, the

The Arab Trade Fund Programme (ATFP) set a financing capacity of \$1 billion a year when it was established by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) with a capital of \$500 million.

But the fund has received applications for only \$397 million in credits since it launched operations in early 1991 just after the Gulf war. Around \$263 million have

been approved, the ATFP said after a board meeting here Monday. In 1995, it received applica-tions for credits of \$140 million,

but agreed on only \$95 million.

the ATFP said. It gave no reason for the weak demand but economists said a deep Arab political rift caused by the Gulf war was still overshadowing the fund's acti-

Other factors include existing trade barriers and low non-oil exports, which do not exceed five per cent of total Arab exports, mostly oil.

ATFP's operations cover only home-made products, excluding oil, with the aim of encouraging Arab exports and tackle a chronic deficit in trade and balance of payment in

most member states.
The AMF, the 21-member Arab League's main financial organisation, contributed half the ATFP's capital while the rest was subscribed by other Arab financial institutions and

The fund is based at the AMF and its operations are conducted through national agencies in each member state. AMF officials have hoped the fund would help boost trade among Arab states as part of plans to achieve econo-

But it has had no impact and internal trade even worsened due to post-war political differences, according to AMF fi-gures. Trade between Arab states dropped by 14 per cent in 1991 and continued to fall in

Australia determined U.N. agencies and Arab to cut budget deficit

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australian Treasurer Ralph Willis Tuesday announced his determination to cut the budget deficit as a raft of positive economic data continued to dazzle economists.

Latest figures showed a sharp increase in home building approvals in January and a fall in the current account deficit for the same month. Meanwhile, an economic in-dicator pointed to accelerated growth in 1994,

In a discussion paper for the May 10 budget, Mr. Willis said Australia must stick to its plan for reducing its budget deficit to maintain confidence in the

The government has forecast a budget deficit of 14.75 billion dollars (\$10.5 billion) for the 12 months to June 30 and is committed to cutting that figure to about 6.0 billion dollars

"Credible progress in the government's medium term deficit reduction programme is crucial to the maintenance of confidence." Mr. Willis said.

He said the fiscal framework was "very tight" but was in the context of a greatly improved economic outlook.

He repeated the government's most recent forecast that growth in gross domestic product (GDP) would run at 4.0 per cent in 1994-95 compared to a predicted 3.5 per cent in this financial year.

Westpac Banking Corp chief economist Bill Evans said annualised GDP growth for the December quarter could reach five per cent when the data is released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on March 16.

The latest reading on the Westpac Melbourne Institute leading index of future business activity showed a 0.8 per cent rise in December to a record 138.9 points from 137.8 the month before.

Australia's current account deficit fell in January by 20.9 per cent to a seasonally adjusted 1.27 billion dollars from 1.60 billion dollars the month before, the ABS announced

Ankara lets

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's central bank let the battered

lira slide again Tuesday for an

effective devaluation of nearly

10 per cent against the dollar in

The bank, under new gov-

ernor Yaman-Toruner, raised

its dollar selling rate to 21,800

lira at around midday and then lowered it to 21,550. Its sell

The 9.6 per cent plunge in

the lira will fuel inflation,

already at an annual 69.6 per

cent, hit banks with short dol-

lar positions and may further

damage Prime Minister Tansu

rate was 19,480 on Friday.

lira slide

two days.

organisation sign accord on industrial development

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two United Nations agencies and an Arab organisation have joined hands to bring about increased in-dustrial cooperation in the Arab region through developing human resources and individual and national technical capabilities of concerned coun-

An agreement to this effect was signed in Vienna last week by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the U.N. Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organisation (AIDMO).

Taking their cue from the recommendations of a recent conference of UNIDO. an umbrella organisation for industrial development particularly in the Third World, the three organisations "agreed to reinforce their cooperation through the implementation of ioint activities with the aim of fostering industrial development of the countries of the region." an ESCWA press release said.

ESCWA Executive Secretary Sabah Bakjaji. AIDMO Secretary-General M. Karbid and UNIDO Director-General M. de Maria Campos signed the agreement after "examining ways and means of closer cooperation between their organisations in the context of the new orientation of the recently concluded fifth session of the general conference of UNIDO," it said.

Particular emphasis will be given in common programmes envisaged by the three organisations to the needs of the least developed countries (LDCs) in the region.

Human resources development, development of national and technological capacities. upgrading the competetiveness of industrial products, standardisation and quality control. industrial management in-formation, food security through the development of agro-industries, promotion of the private sector, sustainable industrial development through energy conservation and environmental protection are some of the key priority areas of the cooperation venture of the three organisations.

The press release said: "ESCWA, UNIDO and " AIDMO agreed that within. these broad priorities, a particular emphasis should be placed on managerial and en-terepreneurship development enabling the training and up-grading of skills of a large number of local entrepreneurs. particularly small and mediumsize industries, thus assisting productive investment and absorption of technology.

"It was also agreed that the industrial information systems related to monitoring, analysis and forecasting of industrial activities should be developed.

Financial

Markets

Nerling Pound

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"At the national level, all necessary assistance should be provided to the efforts of development of private sector institutions to provide support

S. Korea cuts more red tape to attract foreign investors

mic integration.

SEOUL (AFP) - South Korea will permit foreign firms to buy up to 10 per cent equity in local firms and allow foreigners to invest in tourist hotels without prior approval, the ministry of finance (MOF) said Tuesday.

Under a new ordnance to go into effect Wednesday, the government will also cut delays on processing investment approval requests, ordering them cleared within five to 15 days, compared with the current 30 days.

Foreign investment plans which are subject to automatic approval but carry a clause

ter democracy in Hong Kong

ahead of its 1997 handback to

They also contradicted a 2.5

per cent drop in blue-chip

share prices Tuesday on the

Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

which is underprinned by prop-

erty issues such as Sino Land

and Hang Lung Development.

crowded Hong Kong is hard to

come by, due in part to the fact

that Britain and China have to

agree first on which sites to

release for auction every year.

questions of how much longer

the home-buying public could

afford to buy what the de-

But spiralling prices begged

Land to build homes on in

Hong Kong land prices hit record highs at auction

requiring a report filed to the government must be processed within three hours, instead of the current 20 to 30 days, the ministry said. The measures are part of an

incentive package containing detailed regulations for the implementation of the law on foreign capital inflows. Under the new regulations.

foreigners seeking to invest in tourist hotels will no longer need government approval but will have only to inform the authorities.

Foreign firms, or Korean firms with a 50 per cent or over foreign ownership, will no lon-

Chung Sen Surveyors esti-

mated that to break even. Sino

Land would have to sell the

middle-class homes it would

build at the Kowloon site for

8,000 dollars per square foot ---

compared to 5,000 dollars at

That would make a typical

"When it comes to the end

500 square foot home cost four

user, it's a bit too much."

Chung Sen Surveyors group

But Michael Hollington, a

director of property consultant

Richard Ellis, noted that the

developers would begin selling

units in 1996 and early 1997,

pated being a difficult time."

"which we would have antici-.

million dollars (\$516-125).

chairman Pi Leung said.

today's market rates.

10 per cent of the local firms listed on the Korea Stock Exchange, the ministry said.

ger require government

approval to buy shares of up to

The 10 per cent limit remained, the MOF said. The new ordnance also lifts a

ban on foreign investment in luxury consumer goods businesses and energy-guzzling industries.

Restrictions will. however, remain on access to infant industries, news media and businesses "affecting the livelyhood of farmers and fishermen.

developed before April 1997.

eight months after Hong Kong

reverts to China with a promise

from Beijing of at least 50

expected to become more

attractive once nearby Kai Tak

Airport is closed in 1997 in

favour of a bigger airport now

being built on outlying Chek

The price it paid represented

an accommodation value of

60.280 dollars per square

metre, compared with the pre-

vious record of 58-285 dollars

paid in December 1993 for a

site in another part of Kow-

loon, Chung Sen Surveyors

Sino Land's Kowloon site is

years of autonomy.

Lap Kok island.

Ciller's coalition government before municipal elections on Until last week the central bank had been trying to defend the lira by raising lira interest All three sites are to be fully

rates and selling dollars.
This week Mr. Toroner seems to have plumped for a new policy of curbing interest rates and loosening his grip on

Mr. Toruner, whose predecessor Bulent Gultekin quit on Jan. 31 after a chaotic 12 per cent lira devaluation, is seeking a balance between seesawing interest and foreign ex-

change rates. Some bankers believe the purpose of letting the lira slide is to lower interest rates so that the treasury, unable to borrow from the banks to pay for maturing T-bills and civil servant salaries, can return to the domestic borrowing market.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WENNESDAY MARCH 2, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Now that you have made your way successfully through to the midweek von can be more outspoken about conditions existing between you and associates who have been looking to you for

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19). E You have creative ideas that heed proper arranging before putting them in operation. Personal goals can be easily attained

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make necessary changes in the home that will give you added comfort. Be sure business affairs comfort. Be sure bus are running smoothly to avoid any complications.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can benefit greatly by con-creted action in your line of endeavour at this time. Avoid unnecessary expenditure of money for the future. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You know best to add to

present abundance, so stop wasting valuable time. Express happiness with loved one and you will please him/her. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A good time to go after that goal that is so important to you. Lis-

ten to complains of family mem-bers instead of airing your own VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Contact allies who can

give you the support you need for an important project you have in mind. Show that you are LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-ber 22) Know what your personal aims are and go after them in a

who is trying to make trouble for you in the eyes of others. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure not to invest more money than you can fford or you could

later. Show others that you have wisdom beyond your years. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your intuitive

faculties are working well at this time, so make good use of them. You can handle business matters

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use better and more modern methods in your business dealings and get excellent results. Don't neglect important bills which need to be paid.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Making as many ailies as you can is wise at this time. Much care in motion must be exercised now to avoid possi-

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make any changes necessary to improve the quality of your work and reap the benefits. any project completed.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen GUISBERGEN

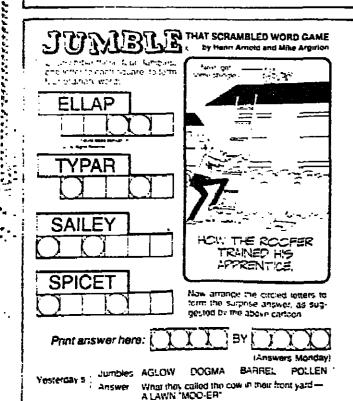
gering levels Tuesday at a urban Tuen Mun, near the

Hong Kong government auc ... border with China, for 650

non, even amid fears of higher million dollars, 71 per cent up

interest rates and a worsening from the opening bid.

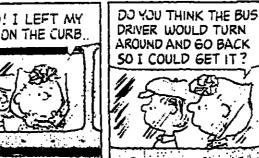
"I dreamed the tea kettle whistled when you walked by, so you sued it for harassment."



Peanuts

velopers create.









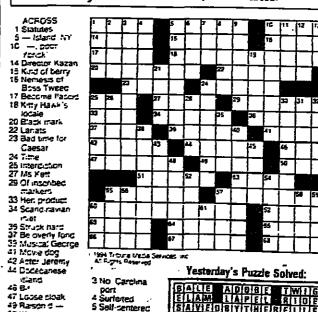
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Wilson McBeath





4GA Sande

50 Weep 51 Adversary 53 Name 55 Beliefs 57 Broadway

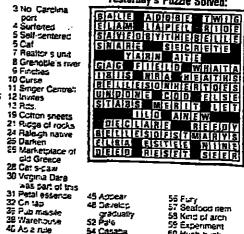
in size: 60 Soursem se

63 Others s Ineral 64 Corruption 65 Enubes 66 Duil of a

style 67 Compatant

PCE:NO

SCYAN



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TOMDOM ONDON (R) Follo alle London Foreign 15. 11.00 costs

AMMAN YIMANGIAL MARKET

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7.900 7.900 7.900
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Currency	New York Close	Close
 ·	Inte 28/2/94	Bate 1/3/94
Sterling Pound	1.4855	1.4855
Deutsche Mark	1.7042	1.7058
Swiss Franc	1.4259	1.4300
Frenck Franc	5.7905	5.7952**
Japanese Yen	104.59	104.92
European Curreny Unit	1.1340	1.1334**
USD Per STG	· .	-

Date: 1/3/1994 1 MTH 3 MTHS 6 MTHS 12 MTHS 3.2500 3.4375 3.5625 4.0000 U.S. Dollar 4.9375 4.9375 4.9375 5.0000-Sterling Pound Deutsche Mark Swiss Franc

5.8750 5.6875 5.5000 5.2500 4.0000 3.8750 3.8125 3.6875 6.1250 6.0625 5.8750 5.6875 2.1875 2.1250 2.1250 2.1250 6.3700 6.1800 6.0600 5.8700 European Currency Unit mis bid rates for manufacts recreding L.S. Dullars L.199,000 or equivalent

_				•		
Precious Metals				Date: 7/3/1994		
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	
Gold	380.85	7.50	Silver	5.34	0.120	
. 20 5/		1 112				

	Date: 1/3/1994			
Currency	Bid	Offer		
U.S. Dollar	- 0.6980	0.7000		
Sterling Pound	1.0354	1.0406:		
Deutsche Mark	0.4088	0.4108		
Swiss Franc	0.4873	0.4897		
French Franc	0.1202	0.1208		
Japanese Yen	0.6636	0.6669		
Dutch Guilder	0.3640	0.3658		
Swedish Krona	*****	****		
Italian Lira	0.0413	0.0415		
Belgian Franc	*****	*****		

ther Currencies.	Date: 1/3/1994			
'urrenc'	Bid	Offer		
lahraini Dinar	1.8320	1.8480		
ebanese Lira	0.040365	0.041745		
iaudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1867		
Cowaiti Dinar	2.3380	2.3600		
Patari Riyal	0.1895	0.1905		
Reyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2200		
	1.7900	1.8060		
Omani Riyai	0.1895	0.1905		
JAE Dirham	0.2735	0.3155		
	_	1.3870		
Freek Drachma* Cypriot Pound	1.3225	_		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs

One sterling

One ounce of gold

1.3485/95 1.7003/13 1.9097/07 1,4295/05 35.01/05 5.7820/70 1684.1/5.6 104,35/45 7.9900/00 7.4090/20 6.6725/75

\$1,4875/85

\$380.80/381.30

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Beigian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

Brazil launches new economic plan, will introduce new currency

BRASILIA (AFP) — Brazil has unveiled an economic stabilisation plan that will introduce a new currency, called the real, and give a five per cent pay hike to government workers, including army staff.

Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said he had overcome some opposition to the plan in the labour and federal administration departments, where some officials were concerned about the effect of planned wage inde-

Mr. Cardoso fanned the 40article plan in the federal gov-ernment's Daily Bulletin for reporters and said that in addition to the new currency, the plan would implement market intervention measures designed to fight excessive price hikes, including a so-called real value unit (URV) for indexing.

The URV, a monetary unit that will not circulate in print. was set at 647.50 cruzeiros reales - a level almost pegged with the dollar, which was trading at 627.68 cruzeiros reales Tuesday.

The new currency, the real, is to be in circulation in a maximum of 360 days, Mr.

BOMBAY (AFP) — Foreign

investors here gave the

thumbs-up Tuesday to the fis-cal 1994-95 budget unveiled by

Finance Minister Manmohan

Singh and said it kept India

solidly on the path of economic

Navinder Sahni of brokerage

Marlin Partners U.K. said the

budget released Monday had

sent positive signals to foreign

institutional investors and fore-

ign firms seeking to take

advantage of the opening of

to stay on course." he said.

"The budget is growth-friendly. Input costs for most firms

will go down. We are heading

The initial reaction of the

Bombay Stock Exchange, the

nation's largest, was negative.

however, as the barometer

sensitive index lost 136 points

during the first full day of

Broker Ajit Ambani said

much of the selling was by local

profit-takers and the bulls

would return to the market.

in panic while others are wait-

ing cautiously to get a clearer idea of the budget." he said.

Pankaj Talwar of W.I. Carr

"The ill-informed are selling

4150.15 points.

towards a lower cost India.

We would advise investors

the Indian economy.

reform.

But experts said the time frame was on the generous side, and that the new bills would likely be on the streets in three to four months.

Mr. Cardoso also announced that the monthly minimum wage, as of Monday, was set at 58.732 cruzeiros reales, or ab-

The text of the plan says the government should resort to using the URV for price indexing only in cases of pricegauging by major holding companies which control about 50 per cent of Brazil's economy, currently the world's 10th

The finance minister presented the final plan to President Itamar Franco for the first time on Saturday and got the administration's legal green-Sunday, he pressed through

nine hours of private negotia-tions at the Planalto presidential palace with opponents of the plan from the labour and administration departments as well as the military. Mr. Franco chaired the meeting and Mr. cardoso was able to forge a consensus without making concessions that would jeopardize

(Far East) said the budget for

the fiscal year beginning April 1 was foreign investor friendly

although "obviously all ex-

pectations have not been met."

expectations."

tially.

adding "there were too many

port duties and domestic tariffs

would help industry substan-

Turning to the stock market.

he said automobiles, consumer

goods, paints and toiletries

"But I am very bullish on

shares of computer hardware

and software firms. The duty

cuts here are significant," he

Sri Shankar of Hoare Govett

Asia said foreign institutional

investors were disappointed

that the 10 per cent capital

gains tax on portfolio invest-

"We were expecting it to be

brought down to zero as in

countries like South Korea and

But, he added, "there has

been no slackening" of the

economic reforms begun in

June 1991 by the government of Prime Minister P.V. Nara-

"The good thing is (Finance

Minister Singh) is going about

ments was retained.

Malaysia," he said.

simha Rao.

looked like attractive buys.

Mr. Talwar said cuts in im-

But with feet to the fire, Mr. Cardoso did agree to back a five per cent wage hike for all government employees including military personnel, as well as to create a commission that would look into the possibility of eventually raising the mini-

On the campaign trail, the frontrunner in the presidential race, with Oct. 3 elections looming, swiftly announced his opposition to Mr. Cardoso's

"Keeping prices unregulated while indexing wages is inexplicable," Luis Ignacio "Lula" da Silva, a former metal workers union leader with the Workers' Party, said in Curitiba. He said workers would be seriously hurt by the plan.

Metal workers unions in Sao Paulo, Guarulhos and Osasco meanwhile announced they were going on strike March 2 to protest the new stabilization

"Our problem is February's inflation (estimated at 40 per cent by research institutes) which will not be taken into account in the wage-fixing," said Paulo Pereira da Silva, the number two man at the Sao Paulo branch of the union.

making domestic industry com-

petitive. With a good monsoon

and excellent industrial growth

things should look up. The

budget is particularly good to

industry," Mr. Shankar said. Pravin Shah of Smith New-

court said he did not expect

any change in investment pat-

terns on the Indian stock ex-

"Substantial money has

already been earmarked for

investment here. This trend

will continue as the budget is

broadly pro-reform," he said.

tutional investors, mostly pen-

sion and mutual funds, have

been licensed to invest on Indi-

part of its liberalisation.

to the Indian bourses in 1993.

well in excess of expectations.

The amount is expected to

Foreign investment projects

worth nearly \$3 billion were

approved by the Indian gov-

ernment last year with U.S.

firms pledging more money in

1993 alone than in the 45 years

since India's independence

douable in 1994.

from Britain.

More than 130 foreign insti-

Pro-reform Indian budget cheers foreign investors

In both sectors, workers have been angered by management calls for a wage freeze and benefit cuts against a backdrop of recession.

tests on a vast scale hit transport systems, hospitals, kindergartens and waste collection in major cities across both eastern and western Germany.

workers walked off the job. Train and bus drivers left their vehicles standing for two hours at the height of the morning rush hour. In the east German town of

an stock exchanges since Magdeburg, traffic came to a September 1992, when New Delhi opened up the bourses as Foreign institutional invesstreets. tors brought in some \$1 billion

Walkouts by public workers come hot on the heels of hugescale protests in the engineering sector, where the recent industrial action seems set to

U.S. economic growth near 10-year peak

WASHINGTON (R) - The U.S. economy expanded at the strongest pace in nearly a decade during the final three months of 1993, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

In its first revision of fourthquarter gross domestic product, the department said output surged at a sizzling 7.5 per cent annual rate instead of the 5.9 per cent rate estimated a month ago. That was the strongest growth since the first quarter of 1984, when the economy expanded at a 7.9 per cent rate.

Despite the big upward revision in growth, which was well above economists expectations of a 6.9 per cent rate of expansion, the department's original measures showing moderate inflation were virtually unchanged.

More than half of the additional boost to fourth-quarter GDP came from a lower trade deficit than first thought because exports were stronger and imports lower than estimated a month ago. In addition, consumer spending was

brisker than originally thought GDP measures the value of all goods and services produced by workers and capital within U.S. borders.

The department said GDP expanded by about \$20 billion more in last year's closing quarter than it first estimated. About \$11.5 billion of that gain was accounted for by a smaller trade gap. Another \$4.5 billion came from even stronger consumer spending than thought originally.

As a result of the stronger fourth-quarter growth estimate, the department said the economy grew by three per cent over the entire year of 1993 instead of by 2.9 per cent. That was the best annual growth rate in five years, since 3.9 per cent in 1988.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress a week ago that while bad weather in January and February likely will slow consumer spending early in 1994," as best we an judge, the economy's forward momentum remains intact."

Partly because of the impact of weather, most economists anticipate GDP growth will slow to a rate of about three per cent to 3.5 per cent in the first quarter.

The Fed, as the Federal Reserve or U.S. central bank is known, already pushed shortterm interest rates up a notch early in February to try to dampen any budding price pressures. On Monday, Fed Governor Lawrence Lindsey said he hoped that would be enough to keep inflation at bay, but said there will be more interest-rates rises if needed.

Inflation was restrained in the fourth quarter, with the implicit price deflator rising ony at a 1.3 per cent rate - the lowest since one per cent in the third quarter of 1992 and the same as estimated a month

The GDP fixed-weight index of price changes rose by 2.3 per cent, fractionally more than the 2.2 per cent rate of increase the department originally esti-

ing rates by raising minimum

lending from 11 to 12 per cent.

Mr. Yaqub, a former Inter-

national Monetary Fund ex-

ecutive, said the decisions

have the approval" of Prime

Minister Benazir Bhutto. He

said the present government's

"determined efforts" to con-

tain expenditures "har o laciped

reduce government borrowing

This, coupled with tight

monetary policy, reduced domestic bank credit growth to

five per cent during the July

1993 to Feb. 10, 1994 period.

compared to 19 per cent during

the corresponding period of

the previous fiscal year, he

The money supply growth

has been restricted to 9.6 per

the governor said.

from banks."

German labour unrest grows FRANKFURT (R) - German

public sector workers stepped up a nationwide protest campaign of disruption on Tuesday and separately the I.G. Metall engineering union said it was confident of securing backing for a full strike next week.

The public employee pro-

In Berlin alone, 100,000

standstill as about 150 refuse collectors drove a convoy of 50 garbage trucks through the Germany's most populous

state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the home of the Bonn government, was targeted for the second day running. Around 26,000 workers took part in action there.

escalate into a full strike.

Pakistani central bank lowers interest rate maximum and minimum lend-

KARACHI (AFP) - Pakistan's central bank reduced commercial bank interest rates from 22 to 19 per cent Tuesday to increase the flow of credit to the private sector. The State Bank of Pakistan

(SBP) also lowered its lending rate to commercial banks from 17 to 15 per cent and cut the liquidity ratio by five per cent. from 35 per cent of reserves to 30 per cent. SBP Governor Mohammad

Yaqub, announcing the decisions at a news conference. said that the measures were designed to reduce the cost of borrowing and to enhance credit flow to the private sector. His announcement gave an

immediate boost to Pakistan's premier Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE). The KSE 100index surged by 44 points at 2501.73, dealers said, forecasting a further rise as the rate cut would reduce the cost of production of many loss-making companies listed on the stock

Mr. Yaqub described the measures as "fruits" of autonby the government through a bill enacted by the parliament last month. The act gives SBP independ-

ence in regulating and super-vising the national monetary and credit system. The SBP has also tried to reduce the spread between

cent compared with 16.4 per cent last year, Mr. Yaqub said. Meanwhile, Pakistan is to offer a series of incentives to

attract private foreign and domestic investment in power generation in a bid to stave off the current crippling energy The government hopes to

raise some 102 billion rupees (\$3.40 billion), the bulk of it in foreign currency, from private investors for various projects over the next five years, with the public sector contributing an additional 217.7 billion rupees over the same period.

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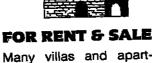
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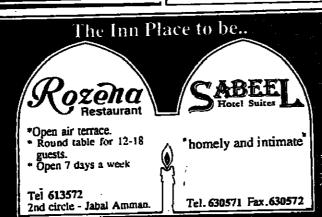
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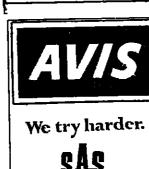
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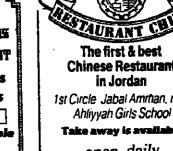
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Clinton, Major discuss Russia, N. Ireland

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister John Major met here Monday and discussed Russia and Northern Ireland at

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Major, aming to patch up strained relations, met at a Pittsburgh an base and said they both supported the downing by NATO planes of four Bosnian Serb warplanes violating the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina earlier Monday.

We're agreed on Bosnia that firm action is right and we'll be looking to see how we can increase the pressure for the peace that every sensible person wishes to see," Mr. Major said.

it was also a nostalgia trip for Mr. Major, Mr. Clinton arranged to meet in Pittsburgh occause Mr. Major's grandfather once lived there, building blast furnaces. The oncegrimy industrial city was also where Mr. Major's father spent much of his childhood. The two said they held the same positions on Russia. "We'll be looking to see what we can do to try and play our part in ensuring that Russia is able to carry its reform prog-

aid. Major was to spend Mr. ming the first Brit-.o stay at the U.S. presidential residence since Version Councill.

ramme forward," Mr. Major

Perioticus bases been strained east Form in recent days. With Britain suggesting last week that it agreed only reluctantly, and after arm-twisting from Washington, to the threat of NATO airstrikes on Sarajevo to force an end to shelling of the besieged city. Britain has also complained about Washington's refusal to put troops on the ground in

Bosnia-Herzegovina. The two leaders have been at odds since the presidential campaign, when Mr. Major's Conservative Party belped Mr. Clinton's opponent, then-President George Bush.

Mr. Clinton recently angered Britain by allowing Gerry Adams, the leader of the Irish Republican Army's legal political wing, to enter the United States on a 24-hour visa after a 30-year ban.

But earlier in the day, when asked by CNN Television about reported strains in U.S.-British relations, Mr. Major said he did not see his visit as one of reconciliation, saying "the talks of breach and difference are wildly overdone."

"We have a whole range of things to discuss: Bosnia, Rus-... and that's what I'm here for," Mr. Major added

Mr. Major said of the Adams visa spot that it was "gone. That's behind us. What we need to determine is how we make further progress in Northern Ireland and that is what we're seeking to do." - Mr. Clinton said he waited

"to emphasise to all of you here in the heartland of Amerwa how important the rela-States and Great Britain is."

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Major also sent a joint message to African National Congress leader Neison Mandela and Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelen, who were set to meet Tuesday ahead of April's first (son-taxaal elections in South Africa.

Mr. Major read the statement here referring to the crucial meeting that may have great importance as the South Africans move toward their first multiracial elections."

Mr. Major won U.S. support Monday in London's row with Beijing over democratic reforms in Hong Kong, British

officials said. China reacted furiously last week to the approval by Hong Kong's legislature of the first tage of the reforms. It said Britain had slammed the door that on any chance of resuming

talks on how the colony should be ruled once Britain has handed it over to Chma in 1997. Mr. Major, on a two-day U.S. visit, told Vice President All Gore it would help if the United States kept making plain its support for more democracy in the colony, officials said. "Mr. Gore, who said he was a great admirer of British Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten,

said Washington would do just

that, they added.

Mandela and Buthelezi discuss unrest, elections

DURBAN, South Africa (Agencies) - South Africa's main black political rivals met Tuesday to seek ways to end violence and bring black federalists into the country's first all-race-elections.

Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, head of the Inkatha Freedom Party, maintained a tough line on arrival at a central Durban hotel for his first meeting in nine months with African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Man-

"I don't expect concessions from Mr. Mandela and he shouldn't expect concessions from me," said Mr. Buthelezi, who is seeking virtual autonomy for Zulus in postapartheid South Africa.

But he added: "I wouldn't be here if I did not hope to make progress...it is quite clear that we cannot have a democratic elections with the levels of violence we have in this country." He refused to comment

when asked about Inkatha's participation in the April 26-28 Mr. Mandela said on the eve

of the talks he would do everything in his power to persuade Mr. Buthelezi to take part in the elections but stressed that there was no question of postponing them.

He told reporters in Johannesburg Monday that while he was optimistic about the meeting, there were two issues on which there could be no concessions:

"That is postponement of the date of elections and...we cannot compromise to any demands whih in fact amount virtually to secession.'

Mr. Buthelezi said Monday he would talk peace with Mr. Mandela but the ANC leader would be wasting his time in trying to convince him to enter the elections.

"There is no question of me being persuaded by him or anyone to ensure the IFP's participation in the elections," Mr. Buthelezi said in the memorandum presented to National Peace Accord Chairman Antonie Gildenhuys in the Kwazulu capital Ulundi. ANC Natal spokesman

Mpho Scott said the main aim was to persuade Mr. Buthelezi to drop his boycott of the April poll which will end more than three centuries of white

Mr. Scott said political violence would feature high on the agenda, as would a demand by Mr. Buthelezi's nephew.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NAZRAN, Russia (R) — Preliminary poll results Monday

showed that General Ruslan Aushev was headed for re-

election as president of the volatile southern Russian Republic

of Ingushetia. Opponents accued Mr. Aushev, whose army of

uniformed police patrolled the polling stations, of securing victory in the North Caucasian republic by force and trickery.

According to the official results released Monday evening, 94,

per cent voted for Afghan war veteran Aushev and only four

per cent for opposition candidate Bamatgirei Mankiev.

Almost 98 per cent also approved Aushev's proposed constitu-

tion, which gives the president sweeping powers. The pres-

idential elections were announced only a week and a half ago

Mankiev, the only other candidate, was refused direct air time

in local broadcast media while newspapers ignored him

BRUSSELS (R) - An explosion at an apartment block in

northwestern Brussels killed four people and injured 14 early

Tuesday, police said. "We have brought two bodies from the

building and there are still two inside which we have not-

recovered yet," a police spokesman Colonel Bligi told

Reuters. He said 14 people were injured, some seriously, by

the blast, which caused the top four floors of the eight-store;

building to collapse. The spokesman said the cause of the explosion was not known. "We do not know if it is gas or

something else," he said. There was no fire. He said 84 people

HELSINKI (R) - Martti Ahtisaari Tuesdav took office as

Finland's new president, succeeding Mauno Koivisto who

stepped down after two six-year terms office. Mr. Ahtisaari,

56, who stood for the opposition Social Democratic Party in

last month's presidential election, assumed the presidency at a

ceremony in parliament. The former United Nations under-

secretary general formally became Finland's 10th president

since independence in 1917 when he took the oath of office in

a televised ceremony. Mr. Ahtisaari defeated Defence Minis-

ter Elisabeth Rehn of the small Swedish People's Party in a

LONDON (R) - The death toll in the weekend torching of a

private London sex cinema rose to nine Tuesday when a

26-year-old man died of his burns, police said. Another 20

people were injured in Saturday night's fire, for which police

have arrested a man on suspicion of arson. The Cinema Club

in east London showed hard core pornographic and gay films

in a small 19th century building. Police believe petrol was

scattered outside the entrance and set alight. Police have given

few details about the casualties but some newspapers said most

of the victims were middle-aged men and some of the dead

HANOI (AFP) - Vietnam and the United States have begun

talks in New York on human rights in an effort to overcome

differences on what Washington has called a top consideration

in establishing diplomatic relations, a report said here Tues-

day Nancy Ely-Raphel, U.S. principal deputy assistant

secretary for human rights and humanitarian issues, met

Monday at the United Nations in New York with Vietnamese

Ambassador Le Van Bang for talks on the issue, one of several

still dividing the former adversaries, the Vietnam News

Agency said. The meeting was held "in an atmosphere of

construction and mutual understanding," the official news

agency said in a brief despatch that gave few details. U.S.

officials have said that human rights will play an important role

in moves to normalise relations with Vietnam, which has said

it welcomes a dialogue on the issue but will not tolerate any

"interference in its internal affairs." A recent State Depart-

ment report said constitutional changes in 1992 had improved

the legal framework for human rights in Vietnam but that

government opponents were still imprisoned for the peaceful

DHAKA (AFP) — Burmese border guards tortured 23

Bangladeshi woodcutters to death after kidnapping them from

the Bangladeshi side of the border last January, it was

reported here Tuesday. The local commander of the Bang-

ladesh Rifles. Major Shah Zakaria, was quoted by the mass

circulation littefaq newspaper as saving, "we have learned

from reliable sources that they were tortured to death."

Burmese authorities ignored repeated requests for the return

of the woodcutters, who were abducted in southeast Bang-

ladesh near the Burmese border, the newspaper said. Maj.

Zakaria, speaking in the frontier town of Bandarban, said the

Burmese had remained silent when Bangladesh asked them to

return the woodcutters at the only meeting the two sides had

on the abductions. Five days ago 26 Bangladeshi fishermen

were reported abducted by Burmese border guards off the

coast of St. Martin's Island, in the Bay of Bengal. In both cases

the Bangladeshis were within their country's border, security

23 Bangladeshis killed by Burmese

U.S., Vietnam hold talks on human rights

were found wearing women's clothing.

expression of their views.

4 dead in Belgian apartment blast

had been evacuated from the building.

New Finnish president takes office

second and decisive round of voting on Feb. 6.

London cinema death toll reaches 9

- giving opposition candidates 10 days to campaign. Mr.

Ingushetia poll 'marred by violations'

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, for a sovereign Zulu king-dom in the new South Africa.

Clashes between supporters of the ANC and Inkatha have intensified in Natal province and townships west of Johannesburg. More than 14,000 people have died in political violence over the past four years of apartheid reform. mostly between supporters of the two black groups.

The meeting is the first in nine months between the rival black leaders and their fourth since Mr. Mandela was released from 17 years imprisonment four years ago.

Mr. Buthelezi reported Monday little progress in weekend talks between himself, the Zulu king and the South African government on the same issues.

Inkatha and its white rightwing allies in the conservative Freedom Alliance have warned of civil war and threatend to boycott the vote if their demands are not met for virtual regional autonomy in a future South Africa. South Africa's white-

dominated parliament was midway through a three-day sitting to debate changes to the draft constitution which the government and ANC say

Cambodian

army flees

captured

base



Mangosuthu Buthelezi prior to their meeting in African National Congress President Nelson Mandela (right) Tuesday shakes hands with Zulu Chief

meet the alliance's demands But Conservative Party leader Ferdi Hartzenberg, a leader of the Freedom Alliance, told parliament the concessions to be enacted were not enough and demanded the elections be

His comments were echoed by Inkatha's Central Committee, which said Monday night the party was committed to an all-inclusive settlement addressing all its demands.

South Africa's multi-party Transitional Executive Council meeting here Tuesday to act

against mounting violence in Natal province, but failed to spell out specific measures. Instead, the body that over-

sees government in the run-up to the April 26-28 poll said only that it had resolved to "take all steps necessary to ensure that elections are held on a free and fair basis."

The resolution was approved after African National Congress (ANC) Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa told the TEC that Natal was undergoing an "unprecedented out-break of politically motivated violence."

Mr. Ramaphosa, who is also the ANC chief negotiator, said "certain parties" were giving military training to groups of 500 to 1,000 people every two weeks.

He was referring to the IFP which has its stronghold in Natal, and to white ultrarightist groups, some members of which have acknowledged training IFP militants.

Mr. Ramaphosa said the military training and an influx of weapons to the troubled region were part of preparations to disrupt the elections.

Four hours before the Inter-

national Atomic Energy Agen-

cy (IAEA) inspectors left the

hospital staff tied to pesticide BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (R)

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- A patient whose body gave off fumes that made emergency room doctors and nurses dizzy had apparently swallowed household pesticide, a hospital spokesman said Monday. In a scene reminiscent of baffling case a week earlier in Riverside. California. paramedics brought a 44-year-old woman to Mercy Hospital Saturday with breathing problems and a low pulse rate. officials said. But when medical personnel inserted a breathing tube, they smelled strong fumes coming from the patient, and doctors and nurses complained of dizziness. beadaches, nausea and burning eyes. The emergency room was evacuated and a hazardous materials team clad in protective gear was called in to decontaminate the area. The woman survived, and test results Monday showed the fumes had come from a common household pesticide she had apparently ingested, hos-pital spokesman Barry Ginsbarg said. He declined to say whether doctors believed she had tried to commit suicide. insisting "we don't want to get into a game of speculation." The case attracted widespread attention because of its similarities to that of Gloria Ramirez. 31, who died on Feb. 19 in the emergency room at Riverside General Hospital. Seven emergency room workers who treated her were overcome by fumes that apparently came from her body, and a doctor and a nurse remained hospitalised in serious condition Monday. Some test results have shown that the workers felled by the fumes had apparently been exposed to a highly toxic pesticide ingredient. But the woman's relatives said she would never had attempted suicide, and experts continued to puzzle over the case.

Suicidal man brings traffic

WASHINGTON (R) - A man apparently intent on killing himself snarled rush hour traffic from the Virginia suburbuinto Washington Monday, threatening to blow himself up if anyone came close. Police shut down the 14th Street Bridge, one of the busiest in the city, after the unidentified man slammed his grey Mercedes Benz Sedan into the railings in an attempt to plunge into the icy Potomac River below. The man, identified by police sources only as Nigerian-born, stopped his car in the middle of the bridge - a major thoroughfare for traffic from suburban Virginia - at the height of the morning rush hour after brushing by a concrete traffic barrier and swinging broadside to traffic. When police investigating the accident asked the man if he was injured, he handed a note from his window saying he had an explosive device in the car and wanted to see his daughter. Police said the man was divorced and that his family lived in Portsmouth. Virginia. about 200 miles to the southeast. They were being driven to Washington when he surren-

to standstill

dered.

were being questioned as sus-

granddaughter BONN (AFP) — A six-yearold hid in the family spin drier in Bad Duerrheim but her grandmother pushed the wrong button and the girl went whirling round. German police reported Monday. They rescued her shaken but unhurt. while granny fainted on the spot. police said.

Granny spin dries

China dynamites mountains to make orchards

BEIJING (R) - China's

Hebei province is setting

almost one million dynamite explosions in the Taihang Mountains over the next week as part of a campaign to promote more apple orchards, the Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday. The blasting will make it possible to form fields on hillsides." the agency said. The dynamite campaign began last Friday when thousands of explosions echoed among the hills of the Taihang Mountains." Xinhua said, adding that nearly one million blast holes filled with dynamite would be set off the March 12. These blasts would pave the way for the reclaiming of some 13,000 hectares (32,500 acres) of fields, on which 300,000 apple trees could be planted. Xinhua quoted a provincial official as saving.

will focus on a planned exchange of envoys charged with pected nuclear programme. ending the row over inspection Park Yong-Su, the North's of the north's nuclear sites. chief delegate to inter-Korean The two have held three talks, told the South his counrounds of border talks to discuss the envoy exchange. But

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas recaptured their northern headquarters of Anlong Veng from the Cambodian army after soldiers who had not been fed "ran away", a senior commander said Tues-

Jubilant army commanders had bragged that the base, 300 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh, would be "held forever" after they moved into it on Feb. 5.

An estimated 1,000 Khmer Rouge under the command of the notorious one-legged guerrilla chief Ta Mok had fled into

But General Toan Chay, commander of the Fourth Military Region and governor of Siem Reap, said the Maoist guerrillas — the last group still holding out against peace in Cambodia - recaptured the

base on Feb. 24. "All the troops retreated about 10 kilometres from the base... they ran away because they had no food," he told Reuters.

He said government troops were planning to launch a counter-attack within five

On a government-organised trip to the base shortly after its capture, soldiers complained to a visiting Reuter correspondent of inadequate food and medicine,

"We've made a lot of effort to capture this base yet we have little food during the fighting. As you know the supply situation on the battlefield is not good," said one

Defence analysts have long warned of the inability of the resource-strapped government army to supply its far-flung

N. Korea agrees to talks with South

Office said.

ited States.

the South-North Dialogue

cial contact in four months,

the North broke off contacts

last November after the South

rejected its call to end annual

military exercises with the Un-

The meeting, the first offi-

SEOUL (R) — Communist North Korea agreed Tuesday to hold a meeting with South Korea at their cold war border, breaking a months-long dead-lock over the North's sus-

try would agree to talks Thursday at the border hamlet of Panmunjom about a proposed exchange of special envoys. Mr. Park was responding to

Monday's offer from the South suggesting a meeting Tuesday. Thursday, I hope the working-level contact will smoothly work out arrangements for an exchange of special envoys so

The meeting will take place that it can take place at an early date," a spokesman for

from Beijing Tuesday, easing a tense year-long standoff over suspicions that the Stalinist

regime was developing a bomb and toying with the idea of

Meanwhile, seven IAEA inspectors flew into North Korea

Chinese capital on a North Korean plane bound for Pyongyang, officials in Seoul said, at the Panmunjom meeting South Korea will call off Team Spirit, the joint U.S.-South Korean spring military man-oeuvres that the North calls a rehearsal for war.

The delegation boarded a plane belonging to the North Korean Airline Koryo which took off from the capital's international airport at 3:00 p.m. (0700 GMT).

The delegation left IAEA Headquarters in Vienna Sun-day following North Korea's agreement to give visas to the nuclear inspectors.

Namibia wins control of Walvis Bay port

WALVIS BAY, Namibia (R) Namibia won control of the port enclave of Walvis Bay from South Africa Tuesday in a ceremony that President Sam Nujoma said finally closed the book on colonialism in his

Residents of the black township of Kuisebmond danced and sang in the dar-" kened streets after the mid-

night (2200 GMT Feb. 28) ceremony in the township soccer stadium in which the South African flag was lowered for the last time.

As a cannon fired a 21-shot salute, the Namibian flag was raised and Namibian Olympic silver-medal sprinter Frankie Fredericks lit a "unity flame".

"This momentuous occasion marks an emotional rendezvous with our history and destiny," Mr. Nujoma, who led the South West African Peo-

ple's Organisation (SWAPO)

been returned to its rightful But Mr. Nujoma said "local spoilers... untrustworthy persons in Walvis Bay" had tried

in a guerrilla war for independ-

ence from South Africa, said in

"At long Walvis Bay has

a speech at the stadium.

to cheat the Namibian government in negotiations on transferring South African state assets in the enclave to the Windhoek government.

French police question politicians, gangsters in parliamentarian's death

TOULON, France (R) — Police rounded up local politicians and small-time gangsters Tuesday in a swift investigation into the murder of a parliamentarian who crusaded against corruption and drug

trafficking in southern France. Yann Piat, of the centreright Union for French Democracy (UDF), was shot Friday in her Riviera town of Hyeres near Toulon by a gunman on a motorcyle. Authorities have said she was probably murdered by hired killers.

in for questioning in a dawn raid on Tuesday and 17 were later formally placed under arrest.

Some 30 people were taken

Authorities refused to name said they included both mem-

those held but police sources bers of the local assembly in the coastal Var region and underworld figures close to Jean-Louis Fargette, a "godfather" killed last March in San Remo, Italy. Public prosecutor Andre Ride said some of those held

pects and others as witnesses He said investigators had enough information to issue composite portraits of the gunman and the accomplice who drove the motorbike. But he denied radio reports that the hit-man had already been iden-

Yeltsin bows to amnesty, but issues stiff warning criminal guilt, although the acbureaucratic incompetence

MOSCOW (AFP) - President Bons Yeltsin bowed Tuesday to parliament's move to free the leaders of two coups that he thwarted in as many years. but warned he was in full control and would swiftly counter any future moves to destabilise Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin, stung by the amnesty that saw his most butter opponents liberated to resume their campaign against him, met with the speakers of the two chambers of parliament and said lawmakers would be held accountable for their decision.

"At present I see no real danger for civil accord and I am in full control of the social and political situation. Mr. Yeltsin was quoted as saying in a statement released by the Kremin atter the talks. The Russian leader stressed

his view that acceptance of the

amnesty by the leaders of the

1991 aborted Soviet coup and

the October 1993 armed revolt

mounted to their admission of

cused have denied that interpretation. The 1991 coup plotters were all released on personal recog-

nisance last year while the October revolt leaders walked free from Moscow's highsecurity Lefortovo prison on Saturday. "Should the slightest attempt be made against at destabilising the situation in

arrested immediately." Mr. Yeltsin warned. His spokesman asserted that instructions to that effect had already been issued.

the country, they will be

The military tribunal that had been hearing the trial of the accused plotters of the 1991 failed coup met briefly on Tuesday and announced that the proceedings were terminated in line with the amnests. ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The trial opened in April last year but was plagued by health problems of the 12 detendants.

and deliberate political manipulation that turned the onagain off-again proceedings into an unprecedented legal farce. Mr. Yeltsin's statement fol-

lowing his talks with the parliamentary speakers was packed with warnings that his acceptance of the amnesty was highly conditional on better relations with the legislature and the future stability of the country.

It nonetheless boiled down to a dramatic climb-down and a recognition of the Kremlm's failure to block the amnesty. despite claims by former Prosecutor-General Alexei Kazannik that it tried to do so.

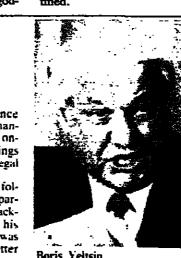
The statement said Mr. Yeltsin had opted against an all-out war with parliament to ensure that the accused revolt leaders remained in fail "taking into account the avowed intention of the State Duma to act towards national concord."

In approving the amnests.



Meanwhile, a leading memher of the party headed by former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, one of the freed leaders of the October revolt. said Mr. Rutskoi planned to

until then Mr. Rutskoi would he "very active" in building his party and planning his presidential campaign.



the legislature "thereby assumed responsibility for the possible political activity of those they amnestied," it

run for president in 1996, Vassili Lipitski was quoted

my ITAR-TASS as saying that

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Seles ranking position put on ice

INDIAN WELLS, California (AFP) — The issue of where to rank Monica Seles upon her return to the WTA tour has been postponed until the former world number-one player decides when she will make a comeback. Anne Person Worcester. managing director of the Women's Tennis Council (WTC). said here Monday the Seles issue was not discussed at weekend meetings here after the group decided to wait until Seles makes her plans known, "Seles has indicated her return to the WTA tour has been postponed indefinitely." Worcester said. The council believes it would be inappropriate to discuss the matter until Monica makes a decision concerning her return to the WTA tour." Seles was injured in a stabbing incident on court last April at a tournament in Hamburg, Germany. The question of where to place Seles in a tournament field came up when Seles appeared set to return to play earlier this year.

Kelly's back in business

PARIS (AFP) - Irish Cycling veteran Sean Kelly is back in the saddle after signing a one-year contract with French team Catavana. Kelly, who will be 38 in two months' time, will make his debut in the Paris-Nice which starts Sunday, the team's Sporting Director Alain Galopin said Tuesday. The Irishman, whose professional career began in 1977, had been widely expected to retire at the end of last season, which he finished with Italian outfit Festina.

Loughran to defend against Galloway

BELFAST (AFP) - Northern Ireland's Eamonn Loughran will make the third defence of his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) welterweight title against former champion Manning Galloway of the United States here April 16. Loughran was lined up to fight South African Gary Murray in Cape Town April 9, but that trip has fallen through because of contractual problems. Galloway held the WBO crown from 1989 until last year, when Dane Bo Jacobsen beat him, and then gave up the championship when poised to fight Loughran.

WBC orders fight for Harding's title

LAS VEGAS (R) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) has ordered a light heavyweight championship fight between Randall Yonker and Mike McCallum to replace Yonker's bout with champion Jeff Harding, who pulled out of this Friday's bout due to injury, a spokesman for promoter Don King said Monday. WBC President Jose Sulaiman's ruling restores a fifth title fight to King's Friday card at the MGM Grand Hotel. Sulaiman said Harding, who has not defended his title for more than 14 months because of contract disputes and injuries, is guaranteed a title fight when he is able to return to the ring. King's spokesman Mike Marley said. Sulaiman said the WBC rules allow the group to order "the two highest available contenders to fight for an interim" title" if the champion has not defened for 12 months or longer. Harding suffered an eye injury in his final sparring session before the intended fight Friday.

Warm welcome for T and D

LONDON (AFP) - Enthusiastic fans invaded London's Heathrow Airport Monday night to cheer the return home of Britain's Olympic bronze medal figure-skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. The ice dancers were wildly cheered and applauded as they emerged into the arrivals lounge. Asked if they would compete in next month's world championships in Japan. Japan. 35. saud: "It is \$0.50 at the moment." He said they would take "several days" to contemplate their futured Many thought that the stylish couple, who have been making a remarkable comeback after winning the gold medal at the Sarajevo Games ten years ago. were cheated out of first place in Lillehammer. The score awarded them by the panel of nine judges sparked a major row about the marking system but Torvill. 36, and Dean refused to be drawn into the controversy.

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Opening lead: Eight of
Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell have been a partnership for so long that, in bridge circles, they have come to be known by one name—Mackwell. There's hardly a bridge honor in the world that they have not achieved and, if you follow the play on this hand from the recent London Sunday Times Tournament, you will understand why. East's opening two diamonds was a weak two in either major, and which was clarified soon enough.

which was clarified soon enough.
Meckwell would not have collected

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enough from defending three spades doubled to compensate for a vulnerable game, so they pushed on to three no trump with Rodwell,

three no trump with Hodwell, South, declaring.
West led the eight of spades and East, Atta-Ullah Munir of Pakistan, encouraged with the six, an excellent play which prevented declarer from holding up. In with the jack of spades, Rodwell made the fine play of a low diamond. Had West, British internationalist. Robert Sheehan. followed low, East's only entry would have been removed. Instead, he shot up with the ace of diamonds and continued with spaces. Declarer held up one round and then won the

At this point most declarers fell back on the heart finesse and went down two tricks when that lost. Rodwell led another diamond. Had West produced the queen, the con-tract would have been secure. When West followed low, declarer rose with dummy's king, hoping to drop the lady. No luck. If West held the queen of dia-

monds, the contract was still safe. But before exercising that option, Rodwell cashed the ace and king of hearts. When the queen dropped, nine tricks were there for the taking—two spades, four hearts, one diamond and two clubs. A hravura display of dummy-play technique.

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Olympic reforms could strengthen Samaranch

LILLEHAMMER (AFP) --Juan Antonio Samaranch could remain president of the Olympic movement to the turn of the century if he can push through changes of the archaic body in Paris next year.

Critics say the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is undemocratic and has no public accountability.

But the 73-year-old Samar-anch, bolstered by two hugely successful games in Barcelona and here in Lillehammer, believes that, like soccer supremo Joao Havelange, he still has a

role to play.

The 78-year-old Brazilian, the FIFA president since 1974, said last week he would seek another four-year term in

And the young generation who feel they would lose out in a 1997 presidential race would be happy to see Samaranch stay a few more years while they build their power base. Next September's congress in Paris will debate two major

Olympic sources say Samar-

anch wants to set up a two-tier body. Rank and file members representing countries would sit in the lower house and national Olympic committee delegates and international sports federation officers would constitute the upper

The executive board's decision-making powers and the IOC president's authority would be reinforced.

But the one rule change which could have the biggest effect as far as Samaranch is concerned is the introduction of a term of office for all That would dispense with

the age limit of 74 and allow Samaranch to stand again for election at Budapest in 1997 when he would normally be ruled out. So the response for more

democracy could ironically

leave Samaranch at the helm

until the Sydney Games in the уеат 2000. "We are debating every aspect for change," said Bel-gium's Jacques Rogge who is also president of the European Association for National Olympic Committees.

Rogge is seen as one man to gain by Samaranch staying in charge longer as they would give him time to challenge longer-serving members like Canada's Dick Pound and Australia's Kevan Gosper for the top job in sport.

Olympic wheeling-anddealing is a hard sport to read. When an executive board proposal to cut the number of candidate cities for the 2002 winter games from 10 to two was rejected by the IOC members it was initially seen as defeat for Samaranch.

But the former Spanish ambassador to the Kremlin rarely puts his personal prestige on the line. He likes to bounce ideas off people and if he sees there is too much opposition he bends with the

And the concession to his members, who get four cities instead of two to visit with their wives, may be a useful bargaining chip in future trade-

Delecour in control in Portuguese Rally

LISBON (AFP) - François Delecour started the Portuguese Rally Tuesday just as he finished the Monte Carlo - at the front.

The Frenchman, driving a Ford Escort Cosworth, won three out of the first four special stages to open up an 18 second lead over his Italian teammate Massimo Biasion by mid-afernoon.

World champion Juha Kankkunen, winner of the day's second special, waas lying third in his Toyota Celica, 20 seconds off the pace. However, the Finn is a specialist of the dirt tracks which will be used on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday's finish, rather than tarmac roads of the opening day. Andrea Aghini, also in a Toyota, was in fourth place and the two Subaru Impreza drivers — Britain's Colin McRae and Spain's former world champion Carlos Sainz - were fifth and sixth.

The only notable casualty was Carlos Menem, son of the Argentine president, whose Ford Escort was forced out with mechanical problems.



Spanish rally driver Carlos Sainz (right) and his British Subaru teammate Colin McRae pose for photographers during the preview at the Estoril track for the Portuguese Rally (AFP photo)

Delecour, who beat Kankkunen by a minute to win the Monte Carlo in January, won his first ever world cham-

pionship race here last year. The rain which has bucketed down over the past few days has left the Estoril tarmac damp in places, but there were no fresh downpours. The 746 kilometres run to Povoa de Varzim comprises 159 kilometres worth of specials -11 in total.

Chicago Bulls' Horace Grant (right) pivots to shoot around Cleveland Cavaliers Jay Guidinger during the first quarter of their NBA game (AFP photo)

Cavamers beat dums

CHICAGO (R) - Mark Price tie with 2:36 remaining as the scored 19 points and Bobby Phills added 17 as the injuryplagued Cleveland Cavaliers extended their season-high winning streak to seven games with an 89-81 victory over the

struggling Chicago Bulls late At Utah, John Stockton hit a

ton Rockets. 89-85. to complete a sweep of a home-andhome series. Following are NBA standings after games played Mon-

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day (tabulated under won. lost winning percentage and games **EASTERN CONFERENCE**

Atlantic Division

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New Jersey	28	26	.519	71/2				
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Philadelphia	20	35	.364	16				
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Atlanta	38	16	.704	_				
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Indiana	28	25	.528	91/2				
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|Medvedeva's elbow survives| fall to help beat Jiminez

DEL RAY, Florida (R) — Shaking off the effects of an Olympics-inspired spin of ice skating, ninth-seeded Natalia Medvedeva beat qualifier Eva Jiminez Sanz 6-1 6-1 in the first round of the \$400,000 Virginia Slims of Florida Monday.

"I was reading so much about Nancy (Keerigan) and Tonya (Harding), I thought I had to go on the ice," said Medvedeva, who injured her right elbow in a skating fall last

"I would have only gotten a 1.0 (score from the judges). My Elbow doesn't affect my strokes, but I kind of felt it on my serve."

In another first-round match, Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki, the 11th-seed, survived a topsy-turvy 6-4 1-6 6-4 battle with Michelle Jaggard-Lai of Australia.

The top eight seeds, led by top-ranked Steffi Graf, second ranked Arantza Senchez Vicario and fifth-ranked Gab-

riela Sabatini, all received first round byes. Graf and Sabatini play their second-round matches late Tuesday.

Monday night's matches were cancelled because of rain. Medvedeva won 89 per cent of her first service points in the first set, in contrast to her Spanish opponent, who won just 38 per cent of her first service points in the set.

After the 199th-ranked Jiminez Sanz held serve in the first game of the match, Medvedeva won the next five games to take the first set. Medvedeva, whose brother Andrei is ranked seventh on the men's tour, only lost four points on serve in the opening

Medvedeva's only let down in the match came when she lost the first game of the second set - double faulting three times in that game. She did not lose another game in

Stark beats Pioline in Champions Cup

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — Unseeded Jonathan Stark of the United States upset ninth seeded Cedric Pioline of France 6-3 6-4 in 85 minutes in the first round of the \$1,720,000 Champions Cup Monday.

Top seed Pete Sampras and fellow-American Jim Courier, the second seed and the defending champion, and third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden all received first-round byes, along with the rest of the top eight seeds at the 56-player, hard court tournament.

The tournament, which features 14 of the top 18 players in the world, is the first of nine one-week, ATP tour events.

Unseeded Fabrice Santoro of France hit seven aces and scored a 6-3 7-6 (7-3) upset over countryman 14th seeded Arnaud Boetsch in a firstround contest.

Twelfth-seeded Alexander the match as new Volkov of Russia avoided upset with a third set rally in his victory against Nicklas Kulti of Sweden 2-6 6-1 6-3.

Stark, 36th in the world, outrallied the 12th-ranked Pioline on the key points in the first and second sets and select tively approached the net to keep Pioline from finding his

Pioline also struggled with his serve, and despite saving 12 of 14 break points, Stark still scored one break in each set and held off Pioline's only two break opportunities with aces. Stark, who said that he liked

playing the first match of the tournament, attributed his win' to his perseverance on hisopponent's service games.

"I like getting to it," Stark said, "I knew if I played him tough on my service games that I could break him. I lost alot of break point because I was going after them, but I gor, two and that was all I needed."

Muresan form NBA's tallest duo

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Manute Bol of Sudan stands nearly 2.3 metres. His belt is above most people's heads. In nine National Basketball Association (NBA) seasons, he

never looked up at anyone. Until now. Until Gheorghe Muresan.

Bol and Muresan, who stands just above 2.3 metres. are the NBA's tallest players and Washington Bullets teammates. Muresean, a rookie from Romania, has a massive 150-kilogramme frame. Bol weighs just 100 kilogrammes. His long, thin legs are a stark contrast to Muresan's bulk.

"He takes a lot of pressure off my back," Bol said. "When we go to the airport and people look at us, I say, 'You think I'm big? Take a look at him."

When 2.1-metre centres Ralph Sampson and Hakeem Olajuwon played together in Houston, they were known as the "twin towers." Bol and Muresan could follow that tradition as the "Washington monuments." But they lack the speed for a fast-paced game. As a result, they are together only when sitting at the end of the bench.

"They couldn't be part of the transition game," coach Wes Unseld said. "The game is played between the end lines and both of them have difficulty getting from one line to the

Bol, who once killed a lion with a spear on the plains of his African homeland, has made his NBA reputation blocking shots. His 2,168 career blocks rank seventh on the all-time list. He made his NBA debut with Washington in 1985 and has also played at Phi-ladelphia, Golden State and Miami. Bol works with Muresan on his defensive skills.

"I don't think Gheorghe is ever going to be the shot block-er Bol is," Washington general manager John Nash said. "He doesn't have Bol's reflexes. He has some offensive abilities. But isn't as great a threat on defence.

Muresan, who played for France Pau-Orthez last season, has developed a shooting touch and found his role in the team's offense. He has earned Bol's

"The big man is playing well," Bol said. "If he keeps working hard, he will be very good next year. He sets good picks, makes the turnaround iumper and the hook shot. I like the way he plays. It's almost impossible to push him out of the lane and it's even worse when he puts that weight up against you."
Cleveland's Larry Nance, a

12-year NBA veteran, compared Muresan to a mountain. saying, "He's the only guy I have played against who I could not move. He's the biggest guy I've ever seen."
Bol, 31, began the season with the Miami Heat, but seldom played. He went longer without scoring than any other NBA player this season. Going 79 days until making two points Jan. 24. He was released the next day.

"Over the summer I wasthinking of going to Europe," Bol said. "Then Miami called and said they could give me five to 10 minutes a game. But I mainly sat on the bench. I've got no problem with them wanting to develop younger players. I never thought I would be in the league this long. But I didn't want to end my career like that."

Bol returned here to his suburban home and waited. After injuries and illness sidelined

five Washington players, Bullet's general manager Nash sought Bol's help.
"We were last in the league

in field goals allowed and we had to do something about it," Nash said. "Manute can block shots and force teams to change their offense."

Bol's time here could be short. The Bullets only signed him to a 10-day contract. The

deal expires Thursday. "I'm just here to show people I'm not retired." Bol said. "It's better than sitting home doing nothing. It's a nice feeling to be back. I would like to stay. But whatever happens happens.

And as Washington forward Pervis Ellison joked in the locker room, "Anything can happen when Manute is in the



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	Cinema Tel.: 634144 PHILADELPHIA	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tal.: 677420 CONCORD	Tel.: 618274 - 618275 AMMOUN THEATRE	Tel.: 675571 Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155 AHLAN THEATRE	
T O A D T	THELMA AND LOUISE Shows: 12:30, 3, 8:30, 10:30	ROUND TRIP TO HEAVEN Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' PASSENGER 57 Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Nowhere To Run Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30	Opening Soon A political comedy	Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians	Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play) daily at 9:15 p.m. Theatre is closed Sundays, Mondays	

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian special envoy Yegor Ivanov beaded for the Middle East Tuesday in an attempt to revive the stalled peace process following the mosque massacre in lifebron last weekend, Itar-Tass said. Mr. Ivanov was to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis and was then to continue on to Israel, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told the acency. Mr. Kozyrev said the envoy's mission was "destined to bring new impetus" to solving the Middle East crisis and that new developments were expected soon. Mr. kozytev's office said he spoke earlier by phone with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who informed him of measures taken by the Israeli government to ensure the security of Palestinians in the aftermath of the massacre. Itar-Tass said Mr. Peres told Mr. Kozyrev that his government was looking into Russia's request that Israel consider Palestinian demands for international military observers to be stationed in the West

South Iran quake kills one, injures 28

NICOSIA (AP) — An earthquake shook Iran's southern Fars province Tuesday, killing one person and injuring 28, Tehran Radio reported. The radio said the quake estimated at 5.7 on the open-ended Richter scale jolted the city of Firuzabad in the southern part of the province, and more than a dozen villages around it. The report said the village of Mook was flattened. In an early morning broadcast, the radio said the adake struck at 7:38 a.m. (0408 GMT), but a later report put the time at 7-19 a.m. (0349 GMT). Several other quakes and aftershocks of lesser intensity shook the area throughout the morning, the radio said. The quakes were the latest in a series of moderate quakes that have jolted the region in the past

Owada to become Japan ambassador to U.N.

TOKYO (AFP) - The Japanese government on Tuesday appointed Hisashi Owada, the father of Japan's Crown Frincess Masako and former vice foreign minister, as ambassador to the United Nations, the Foreign Ministry said. The appointment will take effect on Thursday, Dr. Owada, 61, was vice foreign minister when he retired in August. He is now advisor to the ministry. His daugther Masako married Crown Prince Naruhito in June. The foreign ministry also said Yoshihisa Ara, former minister at the Japanese embassy in China, will be the new ambassador to Algeria, replacing Teruo Hayakawa, also effective Thursday.

U.S. urges travellers to be cautious

TEL AVIV (AP) - The Clinton administration on Tuesday ureed Americans to be careful in travelling to Nazareth and other Israeli-Arab communities that have been rocked by violence over the Hebron mosque massacre. Since the massacre Friday, there have been disturbances in Nazareth in israel's northern Galilee, the Israeli-Arab neighbourhood of Jaffa near Tel Aviv and bedouin towns in the southern desert. A 22-year-old bedouin man was killed in one of the clashes. Dozens of Israeli-Arab protesters were arrested. The warning. relayed by the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv, said: "The U.S. Department of State urges travellers to be sensitive to the possibility of renewed violence and to avoid areas where violent protests have occurred or could possibly occur, and crowded area which could serve as targets for violence." Last Finday, the United States issued a travel advisory urging Americans to avoid the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab East Jerusalem, where protests have been most intense. This advisory remains in effect, the embassy said.

U.N. urges release of relief workers Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) - The United Nations has called the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) to set free four Sudanese relief workers detained in Upper Nile in war-torn southern Sudan. The SPLA freed a British aid worker, Brian Tattersal of the World Food Programme (WFP), last week. He was flown to the Kenyan capital Nairobi, on Sunday. U.N. officials in Khartoum say the main faction of the SPLA led by John Garang seized the five last Thursday in Atar in the Upper Nile state. Khalid, Adly, operations director for the WFP, said he hoped the four would be set free later on Tuesday, he said the group was doing vaccination work and that three of them were with the U.N. Children's Fund

Israeli navy wounds fisherman off Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (R) - Israeli gunboats opened_fire_on fishing boats off the coast of South Lebanon on Tuesday. wounding a fisherman, security sources said. They said the yanboats fired machineguns on the small boats just off Qlayleh values, south of the port city of Tyre. The Israeli navy seized three tishermen off Tyre on Monday - the third such incident in the past two weeks. Eleven fishermen seized in the previous experations were later released. Israel gunboats regularly patrol the South Lebanon coast to guard against seaborne attacks by Palestinian or Lebanese guerrillas.

'Mexican troops are guilty of murder'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Mexican soldiers tortured and murdered civilians during last month's rebel uprising in Chiapas, and the government tried to cover up the crimes, a human rights group charged Monday. Human Rights Watchi Americas said the two missions it sent to the southern Mexican state since the New Year's Day rebellion also found evidence the mintary made arbitrary arrests and detained prisoners illegally. The government sought to cover up the abuses by withholding information and barring human rights monitors and the press from visiting the area where the uprising took place The group said. The Zapatista National Liberation Army was also guilty of some abuses, according to the group, which said however that the army had carried out most of the

Greek embargo of Macedonia condemned

STRASBOURG. France (R) — The Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly Tuesday condemned Greece's trade embargo against the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. saying it was ill-timed and could further unsettle the Balkans. The 32-nation council said in a statement that its assembly passed a resolution that "strongly disapproved of the measures taken by the Greek government which could have a destabilising effect in a region particularly vulnerable at this time." It also supported a European Commission request that Greece lift the embargo, which it said may violate European Union

Spanish court rejects euthanasia

BARCELONA, Spain (AFP) - In the first case of its kind in Spain, a court in Barcelon's Monday turned down an appeal from a paralysed man to be allowed to die. The court justified its refusal by what it called the "legislative void" which the judge said it was not the courts' role to fill. Mercy-killing has no place in Spanish law and anyone who induces death or assists a suicide faces up to 20 years in jail. At the hearing on Feb. 17. The public prosecutor argued against the application made by Ramon Sanpedro, 51 saying the "the issue is not about the right to die in dignity but about the right to put an end to a person's life with the aid of someone else and that remains a crime." Mr. Sanpedro was paralysed from the neck down 25 years ago in a fall onto rocks. Before that, he worked on a ship as a mechanic.

Serbs agree to reopen Tuzla airport

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Tuesday agreed to reopen the airport of the besieged Muslim stronghold of Tuzla in northern Bosnia for humanitarian relief shipments.

Mr. Karadzic's announcement, during a visit to Moscow. coincided with a decision by the main U.N. aid agency to resume operations which had been halted on Monday for fear of reprisals for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) downing of four Serb warplanes.

Hours after the aircraft went down after flouting a U.N. no-fly order. Bosnian Serb artillery blasted Tuzla and its airport, which has been shut throughout Bosnia's 23-month

A joint statement issued in Moscow after two hours of talks between Mr. Karadzic and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said the Serbs had agreed to allow the airport to reopen "in the near future." The U.N. had set the Serbs a

airport to resume operations. The Serb agreement on Tuzla followed a Russian promise to send observers to the beleaguered town "to take part in

March 7 deadline to allow the

monitoring the non-military use of the airport." In Brussels, NATO officials said the use of force to down four Bosnian Serb warplanes Monday had reinforced its credibility and improved the chances of peace in the former

saboteurs

By Rana Sabbagh

AMMAN (R) - Jordan is

interrogating more than 23 members of a Muslim fun-

damentalist group, mostly

Jordanians who fought in

Afghanistan, on suspicion that

they plotted to destabilise the

Kingdom, officials said

The men, who received

funds from abroad and some of

whom admitted carrying out

bomb attacks, had been de-

tained since January in a major

crackdown on radicals and

were expected to stand trial,

The government accused the

group last month of planning

to assassinate Jordanian "per-

sonalities," to attack state in-

stitutions and bomb cinemas.

night clubs and video rental

shops — symbols of Western

values viewed by fundamental-

started the investigation and

the case is expected to be sent

to the State Security Court in a

month's time before their trial

begins." one Jordanian offi-

cial, who requested anonym-

during interrogation to bomb-

ing two cinemas showing soft-

porn films and to two foiled

bombings, on a cinema and a

supermarket selling liquor, the

official added. Nine men were

injured in the two cinema

The group, the official said,

operated in tiny cells and re-

ceived funds from abroad. He

refused to elaborate on their

outside links to protect the

But he said most of the cell

members did not know about

the others. The name of their

local commander and the

group was kept secret in case

belief and goal - to fight

Arab-Israeli peace talks and all

and other social values they see

as munkar (taboo) in Islam like

He and others refused to say

Muslim fundamentalists

ideologically oppose peace

talks with Israel and call for

Islamic Jihad (holy war) to

liberate all of Palestine, includ-

ing what is now the Jewish

experience, interrogates them

as soon as they set foot in the

what types of weapons they

"All of them have a common

they were ever arrested.

alcohol, cinemas etc."

investigation.

Five of the men confessed

"The prosecutor-general has

Tuesday.

they added.

ists as unethical.

ity, told Reuters.



Two soldiers on an armoured vehicle accompanying a Dutch U.N. convoy on its way to Lukayac in Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP photo)

Since the expiry of the NATO's deadline for the withdrawal of heavy weapons from around Sarajevo, Feb. 20, a new "power relationship" had come into effect in Bosnia. a diplomatic source said.

U.N. troops in Bosnia were acting in a more forceful fashion, taking advantage of the increased credibility of the Western powers to demand the right of passage for more humanitarian convoys, the

NATO officials welcomed the approval given by Moscow Monday to the downing of four out of six Bosnian Serb aircraft and the restrained reaction of the Bosnian Serbs. -

Caught red-handedly violating the U.N. air-exclu-

TEL AVIV — (Agencies)

American Jews who have been

active in far-right groups as

was U.S.-born mosque killer

Baruch Goldstein should not

be allowed to emigrate to

Israel, Absorption Minister

have to permit the import of

terror to Israel," Mr. Tsaban

said on Israel Radio Monday

He listed activists from the

Jewish Defence League, Kach

and Kahane Chai as candidates

so is to declare that these orga

nisations are illegal and to state

that anyone who is associated

with them cannot enter Israel's

"This Kahane-affiliated

group from Brooklyn is the

poisonous morass in which the

murderer Goldstein, who

perpetrated the terrible mas-

Goldstein, a doctor, emi-grated to Israel a decade ago

joining Kach as a natural prog-

ression after working with the

Jewish Defence League in New

Palestinians praying in a Heb-ron mosque on Friday and won

strong praise for his acts from

He slaughtered at least 60

sacre, grew up."

borders," Mr. Tsaban said.

"The only proper way to do

for a ban.

"I do not believe that we

Yair Tsaban has urged.

sion zone, the (Bosnian) Serbs know that it's not in their interest to provoke the West by making threats which would only strengthen its determina-tion," a NATO source said.

They also know that Russia cannot protect them if they violate U.N. resolutions, the source added.

"Russia's reaction is satisfying: It shows that the gap between Russia and NATO which seemed to be growing recently is maybe not so deep and that the Russians are ready to make their contribution to enforcing U.N. resolutions.

"We have to see that Russia's good words are followed by deeds and that they agree to convince the Bosnian Serbs to make peace," the source went

ban on extremist Jews from U.S.

All the groups lay claim to

the heritage of racist Rabbi

Meir Kahane who was gunned

down in New York in Novem-

Israel is considering a ban on

Kach and its leaders have gone

underground after police ar-

rived too late in a bid to arrest

them. Only one Kach activist

has been detained since the

Under Israel's "law of re-

turn all Jews can make

"alivah" or "ascend" to Israel

and receive a package of be-

nefits upon arrival. But crimin-

als or anvone considered likely

to endanger public safety can

be banned on an individual

Tuesday's Jerusalem Post

quoted several senior army

officers as saying that detaining

a few Kach activists and dis-

arming some others was "hard-

ly enough" if the government

really intended to crack down.

army orders to disarm certain

fanatics, restrict their move-

ment and detain them without

One army source said it was

"ridiculous" to take automatic

weapons off the ringleaders

when it was so easy to get such

weapons in the occupied terri-

trial from Sunday.

The government gave the

massacre.

basis.

tories.

For the first time. NATO's threats have taken seriously. a. diplomatic source said.

A spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the main relief agency, said it planned 32 convoys and 23 relief flights to restart the distribution of food and shelter to almost three million people affected by the civil war.

'We've had no threats reported against any of our staff anywhere (in Bosnia)," Ron Redmond of the UNHCR said.

The aid programme was sus-pended on Monday as a precaution after NATO aircraft shot down the four Serb Galeb ground attack aircraft as they bombed Muslim targets in central Bosnia.

Bosnian Serbs, the rebel

nor arrest hardliners until the

Goldstein wanted Israel to

the rule the occupied lands.

Instead, the killings have spur-

red talk of dismantling Israeli

and see which settlements it

ron settlement "has no pur-

to retool the Sept. 13 Palestine

Liberation Organisation

(PLO) autonomy accord.

the future of the 120,000 Jew-

ish settlers in the West Bank

and Gaza Strip until talks on a

final settlement, likely to start

none would be removed during

the interim autonomy phase

Mr. Rabin had promised

which postponed dealing with

Such talk amounts to a call

pose except as a provocation.

"Israel must search its soul

army decided on names.

settlements.

ence." he said.

only in 1996.

Croatia and Serbian-led Yugoslavia all denied the Galebs belonged to them. But General Manojlo Milo-

vanovic, chief of staff of the

Bosnian Serb army (BSA).

warned U.N. peacekeepers the

convoys would only be allowed

to cross Bosnian Serb territory

An attempt by U.N.

peacekeeping commander General Sir Michael Rose to

choose his own convov routes

was challenged on Monday by protesting Serb women who

The women, demanding the

release of husbands allegedly held by the Muslim-led Bos-

nian government army, were

still barring the convoy at Had-

zici outside Sarajevo on

policy at the weekend under which the U.N. would stop

asking Serb permission to run

convoys and would merely

notify them they were coming

a warning that the convoys would be fired on if they tried

to force their way through Serb

checkpoints and UNHCR offi-

cials admitted they were

powerless to deal with an ob-

struction such as civilian pro-

Janowski said in Sarajevo: "At

the moment, we are trying to

talk our way through ... you

can't really push your way

UNHCR spokesman Kris

Gen. Milovanovic repeated

under armed escort.

Gen. Rose announced a new

blockaded the road.

Tuesday.

through.

on his terms or risk attack.

Diana in roadside mission of mercy

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LONDON (R) - Britain's Princess Diana played the good Samaritan to some stranded motorists during a drive at the weekend, lending them her mobile telephone to call for the rescue services, newspapers reported Tuesday. The estranged wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles stopped her sports car on a busy London intersection Sunday to help a couple whose car had broken down, the reports said. Traffic slowed to a crawl as astonished motorists watched the princess offering the couple her mobile telephone to ring an emergency car breakdown service. It was very considerate of Her Royal Highness to help one of our members," the Automobile Association was quoted as saying. Princess Diana, who was travelling alone without any bodyguards, was returning from a visit to her two sons at their school west of London. She has dispensed with her personal detectives since announcing last year she was cutting down her public engagements to have more time to herself. The princess was at the centre of a mobile phone scandal two years ago when a tape of a purported telephone conversation with a male admirer was published by

Fergie attends Clapton's 100th Albert Hall gig

March 1992.

Actor charged with assault on motorist

LOS ANGELES (R) -Charges of assault and vandalism were filed against actor Jack Nicholson over an alleged attack on a motorist in Hollywood. Mike Qualls, a spokesman for the Los Angeles city attorney's office, said the charges were both misdemeanors and arose out of an altercation between Nicholson and motorist Robert Blank on

The party was subsequently

banned by an Algiers court. At least 2,000 Muslim fundamentalists, security forces and ordinary citizens have died in the violence.

Algiers special court jailed one Islamic activist for five years and eight others for three years, judicial sources said Tuesday. The court acquitted seven other defendants.

killing six police officers. But the court on Monday dismissed murder charges against them, instead imprisoning nine men for criminal association and belonging to "terrorist groups.

exiled "parliamentary delega-tion" of the FIS. Anouar Haddan, condemned the weekend killing of the leader of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and nine of his aides by security forces.

His group had recently declared that it killed 70 members of a rival armed movement in a power struggle.

Jordan to try | Israel immigration minister urges | Algerian journalist shot dead

PARIS (Agencies) — Gunmen killed a journalist for Algerian state television station ENTV and wounded two of his companions in an attack on Monday night, the Algerian official news agency APS reported on Tuesday.

really needs." Foreign Minis-APS, monitored in Paris, ter Shimon Peres said Monday. blamed the attack against Housing Minister Benjamin Abdul Kader Hireche, 29, on Ben-Eliezer, who is close to three armed "terrorists" - the Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. official term for militants who told Israel Radio he favoured have waged a campaign of polidismantling those settlements tical violence against the state where the alternative "is to guard them day and night." for the past two years.

"I'm talking about areas ine attack took Israel cannot dream of (keepabout 9:30 p.m. (2030 GMT) ing) or talk about coexiston Monday near the town of Gue de Constantine, which is Tourism Minister Uzi Barin the same provine as the Am joined the call in a telecapital Algiers. vised dehate, saying the Heb-

The three men were taken to the Algiers military hospital of 'Ain Naadja, where Hireche later died of his wounds. APS named one of his com-

panions as postal worker Hocine Hihoubi, 33, who it said was in serious condition. It did not name the third injured man but said his life was not in danger. At least eight Algerian jour-

political violence that has plagued the country since authorities in January 1992 cancelled an election that the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

nalists have been killed in the

In another development, the

The 16 allegedly belonged

to an armed gang accused of On Tuesday, the head of the

the media.

LONDON (AFP) — British rock star Eric Clapton performed his 100th concert at London's Albert Hall Monday night, watched by the Duchess of York and thousands of worshipping fans. Before his performance, given in aid of the Children in Crisis charity. The singer-guitarist was visited backstage by the Duchess of York. Clapton, 48, began playing solo concerts at the Albert Hall in 1987 after tiring of huge arenas with poor acoustics. The duchess, the former Sarah Ferguson, has been separated from Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth's second son, since

Law suit against cardinal dropped

CINCINNATI (R) - A judge Monday dismissed a sexual abuse suit against Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago after the man who accused him withdrew the charges, saying his memory was flawed. Judge S. Arthur Spiegel dismissed the suit at the request of Stephen Cook of Philadelphia, a 34-year-old former seminary student who had alleged Card. Bernardin assaulted him in the mid-1970s when the cardinal was Archbishop of Cincinnati. The 65-year-old Card. Bernardin, the highest-ranking U.S. church official ever accused of sexual improprieties, steadfastly denied the charges.

Acton leaves art collection to New York University

NEW YORK (AFP) - Historian Sir Harold Acton left his priceless estate, including art, libraries and five villas, to New York University. "There is no way to put a monetary value on this extraordinary gift," said university President Jay Oliva Monday. The donation of the La Pietra estate overlooking Florence, Italy, is believed to be one of the biggest gifts ever to a U.S. University. The art collection includes 15th century Flemish tapestries made for the Medicis, pre-Giotto and Giotto school paintings, Romanesque sculptures and a Donatello. The estate also includes five villas and libraries of thousands of volumes on art, literature, music and history. The estate must be used for international seminars. Acton stipulated.

anti-Arab Kach militants living And police told the Post being negotiated before the they would take neither disarm in his settlement of Kyriat Israeli ministers fear mosque inquiry will topple government

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The official inquiry into the Hebron mosque massacre is likely to bring down the Israeli government which ordered it, several ministers warned Tuesday.

"The conclusions of the commission risk bringing down our government," said one

minister who refused to be "There were warning signs that such a drama was possible.

but no one did anything about lamented the minister. "I have in my possession information handed over by

(army) officers. Now I understand why Rabin and Barak were frightened of the commis-Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin and his Chief of Staff General Ehud Barak both

David Libar's proposal to establish the inquiry, led by supreme court President Meir Shamgar, which opens next

week behind closed doors. Officials said no ministers had wanted to be seen to oppose an inquiry amid widespread international condemnation and Arab fury.

Labour Party Member of Knesset Ephraim Sneh, who is close to Mr. Rabin, told AFP: "Instead of concentrating on the fight against Arab and Jewish terrorism, every senior (army) officer will now have to get a lawyer to protect himself against the findings of the in-

Concern ran high among Labour MKs Monday and the main topic of conversation in the corridors of parliament was the downfall scenario.

The commission of inquiry will conclude that the defence minister should have foreseen-

sion with sweeping powers since the founding of the state in 1948 and follows notably the Kahane commission which investigated the September 1982

Palestinians in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. That inquiry led to the resignation of Defence Minister Ariel Sharon who was held responsible for failing to prevent the danger of a massacre by Falange militiamen.

"Just as the conclusions of the Kahane commission turned against the government of Menachem Begin, the work of the Shamgar commission is likely to bring down Rabin. said a former minister in the right-wing opposition Likud. There is no appeal against the commission's findings.

Army lowers toll The Israeli army said Tues-

day that 30 Palestinians were killed in the Hebron mosque massacre, adding to growing

were based on a preliminary investigation and that the number could rise as its probe continues.

appeals to mas to unite MAN (R) — Palestin THE Organisation (F and to Hamas, his -m's mam rival, to jo apago to disarm Je to and solve the se issue with Israel Hebron massacre. the appeal in a lette

inic Resistance M shead Mousa Abu i Lio end longstanding Hamas gave Reute of many and solid. manng of ranks and cace and division." said, responding to Mr. Abu Marzouk

value to hait peace t the Jewish State alting one of our fier. chensive solution to amis and the disarm alers and securing in al protection to our p Mr. Arafat said a leader had told whe was ready to coord
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Arab states — particularly opposed setting up the inde-Egypt and Algeria - accuse the massacre," said the rightconfusion over the just how In a statement faxed to AFP veterans of the 14-year Afghan pendent inquiry into Friday's wing Maariv newspaper in a many people perished last here from Washington, Mr. war that toppled the Sovietslaughter of at least 60 Muslims front-page article on Tuesday. Haddan described the raid on backed Kabul government in Palestinian human rights The snowball effect will be the 10 as they held a meeting as at the Tomb of the Patriarchs. inevitable," said another groups say as many as 60 peo-1992 of trying to overthrow which was under army guard. "assassination" and said "diaminister. "The idea of an inple were slain inside the Ibrahitheir own governments and aclogue with the authorities is of "Nothing good will come out no interest if they persist in cuse them of plotting attacks of it," warned Mr. Rabin, who quiry is a scandal. mi Mosque when Jewish settler 'Because of one psycho-Baruch Goldstein opened fire from hideouts in Afghanistan. also serves as defence minister. liquidating innocents. Jordan's government has no One Rabin aide added: pathic settler. Israel risks loson praying Muslim worship-The slain GIA leader, Jaafar figures on the number of ing its most pacifist govern-"The suicidal instinct of some Afghani. had ruled out any Israel Radio has reported ment which is itself preparing a Afghan returnees, but Muslim government ministers makes negotiations with the authorred carpet for the Likud to groups say they total less than that a survey of Arab hospitals no sense. ities and issued death threats indicated 39 were killed in the walk back into power." Nonetheless Mr. Rabin's against foreigners in Algeria. Jordanian intelligence, wor-It is the eighth such commismosque. almost 30 of whom have been ministers voted on Sunday in The army said its figures ried by their religious fervour, favour of Justice Minister murdered. weapons training and combat